

T H E
M E M O I R S
O F T H E
T O W N A N D C O U N T Y
O F

L E I C E S T E R :

Displayed under an EPITOME of the Reign
of each Sovereign in the ENGLISH
HISTORY:

Containing, The ANTIQUITIES of each,
and the HISTORICAL and BIOGRAPHICAL
RELATIONS at Large.

To which is added,

A Brief Supplimentary Account of the
present state of LEICESTERSHIRE.

BY JOHN THROSBY.

“ Solicit not thy thoughts with matters hid,
“ ——— Heaven is for thee too high
“ To know what passes there; be lowly wise.
“ ——— ask
“ How first this world and face of things began,
“ And what before thy memory, was done.”

MILTON.

V O L. IV.

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Grey—Stoke—Chambers—Beeby—Kibworth Beauchamp—Beaumont—Foston—Dudley, Earl of Leicester—St. Peter's Church, &c.—Free School—South Fields.

CHAP. XXVII.

James I—Sir Francis Hastings—Sir Everad Digby—Mrs. Mary Heyrick—Mrs. Clark murdered—Duport—Smith—Kilby Lodge—Beaumont—Syston—Butt-Close.

C H A P. XXVIII.

Charles I—Buckingham—Pestel—Siege of Leicester—Banbrige—Leigh—Vines—Earl of Kent—W. Burton—R. Burton—Butler—Dr. Marshall—Jacomb—Countess's Hospital.

THE

T H E
M E M O I R S
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O F
L E I C E S T E R, &c.

C H A P. XXIV.

*Edward VI—Religious Houses which
have been suppressed—Appleby—Brad-
gate—Wigston's Hospital.*

E D W A R D VI,

S O N of Henry VIII began his CHAP. 24
reign when he was no more than
ten years of age. The progress he had
made in the latin and French langua-
ges, at that early age, was amazing:
he had also, by that time, made some
advances in the greek, Spanish, and
Italian languages. He was a great
encourager

CHAP. encourager of the reformation ; and
 24. founded several hospitals and schools ;
 but a consumption occasioned his death,
 in the midst of his beneficent pursuits,
 the age of sixteen. *a*

THE following is an account of the
 religious houses, of this County, which
 were suppressed in this, and the pre-
 ceding reign, exclusive of those men-
 tioned in the former part of this work.

B R E D O N.

A Cell of St. Oswald, dedicated to
 St. Mary and St. Hardulf, founded
 by Robert de Ferrers, earl of Not-
 tingham, in the reign of Henry II ;
 to which William, earl of Derby, of
 the Ferrers's family, was a benefac-

a This Edward gave the most flattering
 prospect of bliss to his people ; being cele-
 brated for his beauty, sweetness of tem-
 per, and attachment to equity.

tor.

CANWELL PRIORY. 5

tor. It was for canons regular. Va-CHAP
lue per annum 25l. 8s. 6d. 24.

BRADLEY.

A religious house, founded by Robert Bundy, about the time of William the Conqueror, to which lord Scrope was a benefactor. This was for black canons. Value per annum, 20l. 15s. 7d.

CANWELL PRIORY.

MENTIONED by Speed, Willis, and others, to have been in Leicestershire, must be a mistake; there was a priory at Canwell in Staffordshire, where it certainly should have been placed, and not in Leicestershire.

CROXON MONASTERY.

Was founded by Sir Andrew Luter-
teral,

CHAP. teral Knight, to which lord de Chaw-

24.

ney was a considerable benefactor. It was for white canons, and valued at the dissolution at 45*l.* 19*s.* 11*d.* per annum.—Names of some of their Abbots.—Ralph de Lincoln was Abbot in 1192 or 1229.—John——succeeded him in 1241.—Jeffry —— was made Abbot the year after.—Next Thomas —— occurs 1250.—William Graham was confirmed the 17th. of the Cal. of June, 1274.—William de Brackley was Abbot in 1319.—John Arghum was Abbot in 1477 and died in 1491, and was succeeded by—Elias Attercliff, who was in 1499 presented to the living of Thingden in Northamptonshire. He died in 1534, and was succeeded by—Robert Derby who was made Abbot by the influence of lord Berkley, the 22d. of April the same year.—Thomas Green was the last Abbot of this house. He occurs

in

in 1539. In which year, he, with CHAP. 24
twenty monks, surrendered the monastery to Henry VIII visitors, and had a pension of 80*l* per annum allowed him. In 1553 there remained in charge here, paid out of the revenues of this house, 4*l*. in fees, and 12*l*. 6*s*. 8*d*. in annuities, and corrodiacs, besides the following pensions.

To John Cousente, 6*l*. 13*s*. 4*d*.
William Hollydaye, 6*l*. Thomas Taylor, 6*l*. Thomas Hulley, George Chambers, George Parkins, Henry Hanley, Ralph Esttryche, Robert Langthorne and Cristopher Nightingale, 5*l*. 13*s*. 4*d*. each. And to James Charnocke 2*l*. *b*

An Abbot of this house being physician to king John, had the care of his body after that king's death, and embalmed it at Swinstead abby, Lincolnshire, where the king died, for interment at Worcester.

VOL. IV. B CASTLE

CHAP. CASTLE DONNINGTON.

24

Here was a religious house dedicated to St. John Baptist. founder, time, and order unknown. Value 3l. 13s. 4d.

CUMBE.

HERE also was a small religious retreat, dedicated to St. Mary; also another at Cale for black canons.

DALBY in the WOULDs

HERE was a Commandry, founded by Robert Bossue, earl of Leicester, for Knights Templars; but upon the dissolution of that order the Knights Hospitallers of St. John of Jerusalem obtained this and its revenues: in

In 1311 this order was suppressed being charged with blasphemy, and the most heathenish practices.

whose

GERONDON.

9

whose hands it continued till the general suppression. It was valued at 231l 7s. 10d. per annum. CHAP. 24

GERONDON.

At this place was founded an abbey for the order of Cistercians, by Robert Boslue, earl of Leicester, A. D. 1133. *d* The benefactions to this house were numerous. It had an hermitage or cell which belonged to it, near Cripplegate, London, whither the abbot sent two chaplains to perform divine service. It was suppressed by Henry V, and was valued at the dissolution at 186l. 15s. 2d. *e*

GRACE-DIEU

d The founder also of Leicester abbey

e The seat and park of Gerondon was purchased by Serjeant Phillips of the duke of Buckingham, for Judge Jefferies, but the Serjeant liking it, juggled the judge out of

HERE was also an abby for the same order, dedicated to the Holy Trinity, and founded by Roesia wife of Bertram-de-Verdon, about the time of Richard I. It was valued at the suppression at 1011. 8d. And was surrendered by Agnes, the then prioress 27th. of October, 1539. A. D. 1553 there remained in charge in annuities 51. 13s. 4d. and the following pensions. To Cecilia Bagnal, 21. Katharine Baker and Elizabeth Baker, 21. each ; and to Dorothy Englyshe, Elizabeth Hall, Elizabeth Presbery, Anne Aysheley, and Johanna Bradwell, 11. 13s. 4d. each.

HETHER.

of it ; the duke however, before he would execute the conveyance, cut down 5000l. worth of timber. Gerondon is now the seat of Sir William Gerdon.

R O D E L E Y.

II

H E T H E R.

CHAP

24.

HERE was a Commanday, founded and endowed by ! Jeffery - de - Grefeley for Knights Templars but this order being condemned for impiety, it was given to the Knights Hospitallers of St. John of Jerusalem. Value unknown.

R O D E L E Y.

HERE was another Commandry, which like the former changed its inhabitants on the same account. Its income was 138l. 15s. halfpenny.— The owner of the Temple of Rothley or Rodeley is entituled to a sum of money from every purchaser of lands within a certain district here; and is tithe free.

L A U N D.

WAS a priory of canons regular of
St.

CHAP^S St. John Baptist. This house had
 24 exceeding large possessions. Sir Wil-
 liam Dugdale says it was valued at the
 suppression at 399l 3s 3d, and Speed
 510l 16s 5d halfpenny. John Lan-
 caster prior, and five others, subscri-
 bed to the king's supremacy, Septem-
 ber 12th. 1534—A. D. 1553 here re-
 mained in charge 11 in fees, and 171
 in annuities, and the following pen-
 sions. To John Lancaster, 60l. Wil-
 liam Worth, 6l. Hugh Helley, and
 William Bartonne 5l 6s 8d each, and
 to Robert Barrett, 5l.

O U S T O N.

HERE was a priory for canons regu-
 lar of St. Augustin. It was founded
 in the reign of Edward III, by Robert
 Grimbold, *f* and dedicated to Jesus
 Christ, St. Mary, St. Andrew, and

f He was a judge.

All Saints

ULVES-CROSS ABBY. 13

All-Saints. Its income was 161l 14s²⁴ CHAP.
2d. John Stawton abbot, with eleven others, subscribed to the supremacy, 17th. of October, 1534. In 1553 here remained in charge 2l in fees.

SAPCOTE.

COLLEGE was founded by Simon Basset, in the reign of Henry III. Value unknown.

ULVES-CROSS ABBY.

So called because there stood a cross before the gate. It was founded by Roger-de-Quiney, earl of Winton; and valued at the suppression at 102l 3s 10d halfpenny per annum. Edward Dalby, prior, and nine others, subscribed to the king's supremacy 17th Sept. 1534, and at the dissolution eleven brethren surrendered it to the king's

CHAP. king's visitor, Sept. 15th. 1539.—A.
 24 D. 1533, here remained in charge 2l
 in fees, and 15l in annuities, and the
 following pensions. To Thomas Mas-
 sey and William Ellaunde 5l 13s 4d
 each. Richard Eglett and William
 Smyth 5l 6s 8d, and Henry Smith 2l.

KIRBY-BELER

HERE was a collegiate church,
 founded in the reign of Henry II., by
 Roger Beler and Avis his wife. King
 Edward I, granted to the prior of this
 church a Court-Leet, here. This
 church's revennes were valued, at the
 suppression at 17l 7s 10d farthing,
 per annum.

LANGLEY.

HERE was a benedictine nunnery,
 founded by William Pantulph and
 Burgia his wife, and in the reign of
 Canute

Canute the Dane ; dedicated to St. Mary.—It appears by an inquisition in the reign of Edward I, that the nuns of this house had the power of electing a prioress, upon a vacancy ; on these occasions a boy with a rod in his hand was placed at the gate of the nunnery, until the election was made, for which he was to have his diet from the house.—Altho' the following story has the colouring of superstition, it is handed down by historians as a fact. A sister of this place, named Harvise-de-Colvile, it is told, was of that pure virginity, and uncommon chastity, that even her thoughts were ever free from sin ; and as a token of her superlative purity, a bright radiancy shone round her like an heavenly glory.—This house was valued at the suppression at 34l 6s 2d per annum.

BESIDES the above, there were some others of inferior note, also some, men-

CHAP. tioned by Mr. Speed which cannot be
 24. fixed in this county with any certainty.

PENSIONS paid anno 1553, to incumbents of chantries, &c. in this County. To Richard Browne, incumbent of St. Mary's chantry, *Bosworth*, 5l.—To John Templeman, incumbent of St. Peters chantry, *Leicester*, 5l.—To Thomas Hynde and William Phopton, chantry priests of St. Margaret's Guild, *Leicester*, 5l each.—To William Raunde and Henry Treves, incumbents of Corpus Christi Guild, St. Martin's, *Leicester*, 5l each.—To Henry Hilton, incumbent and clerk, celebrating divine service at *Myferton* church, 5l.—To Reginald Bothe, William Drone, and John Probe, chantry priests of *Peckleton* chantry, 4l each.—To Thomas Bramstone, incumbent of *Queneborough*

BRADGATE-HALL. 17

borough chantry, 4l 10s.—To John CHAP
Burrow, incumbent of *Sapcote* chantry 24
6l.—The annual amount of pensioned
payments in this county, at that time,
amounted together to about 792l.

GEORGE APPLEBY,

A descendent of Sir Edmund Appleby, (See page 117, vol. II.) was slain in defending the isle of Inkippe, near Scotland, the first year of this reign. The wife of this gentleman was burnt in the year 1557, at Coventry, for her attachment to the reformation.

BRADGATE-HALL.

WHICH stood upon the borders of Charnwood forest, was built by Thomas Grey, marquis of Dorset, in the preceding reign : it was afterwards inhabited by his son, Henry Grey, duke
of

CHAP. of Suffolk. It continued the seat of
24. the Grey's family till a dreadful fire
destroyed it some years ago. This
house was large and elegant; now
only an inconsiderable part of it re-
mains in ruins. Burton gives the fol-
lowing story respecting the body of
the founder of this house. "That
" whereas not many years since, the
" collegiate church of Astley, in the
" county of Warwick, fell down, and
" the vault, wherein the body of this
" marquis was layed, was opened;
" and therein a large coffin of wood
" was found, which at the curious de-
" fire of some was there burst open,
" myself being present, 1608. Whose
" body having lain there for the space
" of 78 years, was at the cutting o-
" pen of the cere-cloth viewed perfect;
" and found nothing corrupted; the
" flesh of the body nothing perished
" or hardened; but in colour, propo-
" tion

WIGSTON HOSPITAL. 19

“tion and softness alike to any ordi-CHAP.

“nary corps newly to be interred. 24.

“His body, was six feet wanting four

“inches, his hair yellow, his face

“broad, and seemed to be thus pre-

“served by the embalming thereof.”

WIGSTON HOSPITAL

SITUATE at the west end of St. Martin's church-yard, Leicester, was founded by William Wigstone, jun : in the reign of Henry VIII. g It is a stone building, in good repair, and has a chapel adjoining, wherein the Confrator reads evening prayers. There is also a Master, besides a Con-

g Mr. Cart says, a licence was obtained for that purpose, the fourth of Henry VIII and a confirmation the sixth.—Speed says, it was founded in the reign of Henry VII.—And Burton fixes it towards the latter end of the reign of Henry VI.

frator,

CHAP. frator, provided for by this noble in-
 24 stitution, who have each of them a
 good house built for their residence
 This hospital maintains twelve old
 men and as many women; each of
 them has separate apartments to dwell
 in. The founder of this hospital gave
 wholesome statutes for its regulation,
 which were confirmed by John, bi-
 shop of Lincoln, in Sept. 1522, but
 they were altered, in the time of queen
 Elizabeth, by Henry, earl of Hun-
 tingdon.

IN 1656 John Whatton, Esq; who
 has an alabaſter monument erected to
 his memory, in St. Martin's chancel,
 Leiceſter, gave, to the corporation,
 ſeven pounds, per annum, payable
 out of the ſhire-hall cloſe, for the
 maintenance of an additional poor wi-
 dow, to be placed in an apartment
 which was built in the ſaid hoſpital,
 by his wife. Out of this ſum two ſhil-
 lings

lings and six-pence, he order'd to beC H A P.
 paid per week, to that poor woman, 24
 and five shillings annually, to the
 master ; and five shillings to the May-
 or and his brethren, for wine.

THE late Rev. Mr. Jackson, who
 was master, constantly resided here,
 agreeable to the intentions of the in-
 stitution ; and on certain days preach-
 ed to the poor inhabitants of the hos-
 pital : He also added an additional
 sum to their pay, per week, for ever.
 But the present master being non-resi-
 dent has occasioned the following sen-
 sible reflection by a stranger, who has
 lately written a sketch of a tour in some
 of the midland counties. Speaking of
 this hospital, he says, " The master
 " who never resides, has a salary of
 " 200l a year, and the benefit of re-
 " newing the leases of a very confi-
 " derable estate, which is reckoned
 " worth

CHAP. "worth 300l a year more. Can he
 24 "reflect on the situation of the pau-
 "pers, and think the intention of the
 "charitable founder is answered?"

BUT let us hope, that the gentleman, who has been so fortunate as to succeed to this lucrative sinecure, forgets not that there are those who born to adverse fortune are truly pitiable: such that providence has afflicted in this sublunary existence, for the affluent to exercise the noblest virtue, relief to the necessitous, deprest with age and infirmities. In vain may the indigent look up to compassion where the blessings of this world do not abound.—In vain may affliction supplicate for succour when the pitying beholder can assist only with tears and prayers. O! ye favourites of fortune, look down from your golden eminence, on the wretched, and imitate your GOD by acts of MERCY!—And
 Ye

Ye bright spirits ! Ye, who, were the CHAP.
 noblest of the human race, where 24.
 should we find indigence, if your be-
 nefactions were not misused by avarice and injustice ?

IN England we have many charitable institutions ; and those of the latest date seem best calculated to prevent abuse by being intrusted to numbers ; but on the ancient injustice, and oppression, have long fed keenly.—Were the *Rev. Chieftains* of these houses appointed *only* to enjoy, at ease, more than half their revenues ?—Say ye, who know that the inhabitors of them have souls immortal !

CHAP.

25

CHAP XXV.

Mary I—Lady Jane Grey—Bishop Latimer—Edward Hastings—Christopher Draper—Thomas More—John Jackson, &c.—Hugh Weston—Leicester.

MARY,

1554 **S**ISTER to Edward VI, after de-throning Lady Jane Grey, who wore the ensigns of royalty but a few days, was crowned queen of England, &c. She married Philip of Spain, a proud prince. Her reign, altho' a short one, was marked in every stage with blood; so that time will scarcely erase those sanguinary impressions. It is computed that, during the space of three years of her reign, not less than two hundred and seventy and seven persons, protestants, were burnt at the stake; besides numbers who were punished

nished by confiscation, fines, and imprisonment: among the former were five bishops, twenty-one clergymen, eight lay-gentlemen eighty-four tradesmen, one hundred husbandmen, servants and labourers, fifty-five women, and four children. Mary, upon the decline of life, was tortur'd by severe reflections on what had passed, and on that which was likely to succeed her death, the restoration of protestism: these melancholy reflections, preying upon a mind grown violent by disappointment, threw her into a complication of disorders, attended by a lingering fever which carried her off, in the forty-fourth year of her age, after reigning five years. *g*

Lady

g Mary possessed a serious sense of religion, but her bigotry to the Romish religion made her forget the ties of consanguinity and social duties. She was an absolute slave to the will of her husband in religious matters,

CHAP. Lady JANE GREY.

25.

THE mind of the compassionate reader is, by this time, prepared to receive the particulars of one of the most pitiable events that disgraced this bloody reign.

LADY JANE GREY, eldest daughter of Henry marquis of Dorset, and great grand daughter to Henry VII, by his youngest daughter Mary queen of France, who married the duke of Suffolk, was born at her father's seat *b* in this county, A. D. 1537. In an infant age she gave signs of a promising genius, which was cultivated by

ters, in which she gave vent to a mind replete with malignance; indulging an infernal cruelty: in short, her reign appears the most shocking in the annals of this country.

b Bradgate-Hall. See page, 17.

every

For the Memoirs of Leicestershire.



LADY JANE GREY.



every assistance that an indulgent parent could bestow. She soon acquired a knowledge both of the learned and modern languages ; to which were joined a mind adorned with unaffected piety, and a sweetness of temper which captivated all around her. But notwithstanding she fell a sacrifice to the unbounded ambition of the duke of Northumberland, her father-in-law, and the unrelenting cruelty of the bigoted, bloody Mary. Edward VI, had been long in a declining state ; and the duke of Northumberland being at the head of public affairs married his son to the lady Jane, in hopes of obtaining the crown for her, at the death of Edward : she being of the protestant persuasion, and appointed by the will of Edward to succeed him on that account. But alas ! how are the towering projects of men inverted, and the golden dreams of ambition changed to wretchedness !

CH A P. ON the death of the young king,

- 25 her father-in-law no longer concealed his intentions, but went with several of the nobility to Sion-house, where lady Jane resided, and approached her with the respect due to a sovereign. The young lady who was totally ignorant of all that had happened, and of their intentions, was overwhelmed with grief and astonishment at their declaration; and giving vent to tears, became for a time inconsolable. Although but sixteen years of age, she had governed the bent of youthful inclination, so as to despise the amusement of her age and sex; spending most of her time in study and retirement, from the busy world. Roger Ascham, the lady Elizabeth's tutor, one day paying her a visit, found her reading Plato on the Immortality of the Soul, while the rest of the family were amusing themselves in the park; and

and on his expressing his admiration C H A P
at the singularity of her choice, she 25
replied, that, "That little book was
to her a never-failing fund of pleasure, far preferable to her than all
which the gaiety and sports of this
world could offer." While her mind
was stored with such elevated notions,
and her heart filled with tenderness
and affection for her husband, who
well deserved her love, we need not
wonder that she was insensible to the
flattering allurements of ambition,
and earthly pageantry. She was not
only shocked at the idea of possessing
the crown, but at first absolutely refused
to accept of it, pleading the
preferable title of the two princesses,
and earnestly begged to remain in the
station in which she was born. But
nothing could remove the fatal resolves
of her father-in-law, and at length

i Mary and Elizabeth, afterwards queens
of England.

C H AP. length the will of her husband, who
25 by soft persuasion, fatally prevailed
on her, at last, to relinquish her own
judgment, and submit to their will.
She was immediately conveyed to the
tower, as had been the custom for the
kings of England to spend some days
there, after their accession, attended
by all the counsellors. From thence
they gave orders to proclaim Jane
throughout the kingdom. But the
proclamation met with a very cool
reception; as the people were prepos-
sessed in favour of Mary, who was
appointed to succeed by the will of
Henry VIII. Northumberland en-
deavoured to enforce his appointment
by force of arms; but he was unable
to raise an army sufficient for that
purpose; this was not only a mortifi-
cation to him respecting his favourite
schemes, but brought him to the
block soon after, with some others of
his confederates. On the accession of
Mary

Mary, the unfortunate Jane, who CHAP
25.
had even trembled under the splendor of royalty, was committed with her husband, lord Guilford Dudley, close prisoner to the tower. Here her religion raised her contemplative mind beyond the dread of death, and all its ghastly terrors. 'Twas here she so pathetically consoled the afflictions of a fond husband, doomed with herself, to pain and death. As we have seen the source from whence her sufferings flowed, let us attend her through every stage; as she bore them with more than manly fortitude. As she daily expected her trial, and fore-saw her fate, she employed herself in devotional exercises, and penitential epistles: one of the letters which she wrote to her father, before her trial, was nearly as follows:

“MY dear Father,
“If I may, without offence, re-
VOL. IV. E “joice

CHAP. "joice in my misfortunes, it seems in

25 "this I may account myself blessed,
 "that washing my hands with the in-
 "nocency of my fact, my guiltless
 "blood may cry before the Lord,
 "mercy ! mercy ! to the innocent.
 "And yet though I must acknow-
 "ledge, that being constrained, and,
 "as you know, continually assailed,
 "in taking upon me, I seemed to
 "consent, and thereby offended the
 "queen and her laws : yet do I as-
 "suredly trust, that this, mine of-
 "fence towards God, is much the
 "less, in that being adorned in roy-
 "alty, mine enforced honour did not
 "agree with mine innocent heart."

THE lady Jane, her husband, arch-
 bishop Cranmer, and lord Ambrose
 Dudley were tried at Guildhall, Lon-
 don, and received sentence of death,
 while a compassionate multitude with-
 held

held not the forrowing tear, for the CHAP.
fate of the young lady, whose youth ²⁵
and innocent appearance melted even
her enemies into pity.

THE lamentations of the people did not escape the ears of the obdurate Mary, who, perhaps, for once, willing to do a popular act, prevented for the present, the sentence being put into execution against her ; and indulged her to walk in the Tower gardens.

BUT this serenity did not last long ; a rash father, by one sad step, hastened the fatal hour that deprived her of life. The people, by some unpopular acts of the court, seemed ripe for a revolt, the temerarious father let slip not the occasion, and appeared at the head of a rebellion, that was soon crushed by Mary's forces, and himself and lord Thomas Grey, who had been active

CHAP. tive in stirring up the people to rebel
25. in the counties of Leicester and Warwick, were apprehended. When Mary's fears had subsided on account of this rebellion, she gave orders for the immediate execution of lady Jane and her husband. She heard the awful message as one that had long expected death ; and the innocence of her life, and a series of misfortunes made it not unwelcome ; no appearance of terror, no commotions of an agitated mind created a ghastly countenance ; but all was peace within, all was unchangeable without. In the short interval between the summons to death, and that awful moment, she, filled with pious ejaculations ; except when the queen, under pretence of compassion for her soul, harrassed her with divines of the Romish church, to stagger her in the faith she had embraced : but she was firm and unshaken.

ken, alike unmoved by their soothing
arts or dreadful imprecations. A re-
prieve for three days was sent her, in
hopes that time might work a change ;
but her principles were founded on a
rocky basis, too steadfast to be endan-
gered by human power. Under these
melancholy circumstances she wrote a
letter to her sister in greek, in vindi-
cation of the protestant religion, in
which besides sending her a copy of the
scriptures in that language, she strong-
ly exhorted her to maintain a like stea-
dy perseverance in every change of for-
tune. Lord Guildford Dudley with
some difficulty obtained leave to take
his last farewell of her, and on
the day of their execution he
desired permission to see her be-
fore she was conveyed to the scaf-
fold : this was a moment of severe
trial, the messenger saw her pause,—
bidding the struggles of affection
cease

CHAP.

25

MEMOIRS, &c.

CHAP. cease, while reason and religion took
25 possession of her soul, there to reign
alone in that dread hour.—She at last
addressed the messenger in these words,
“I fear,” says she, “that the ten-
“derness of parting will overcome
“our fortitude, and too much un-
“bend our minds from that constan-
“cy, which our approaching end re-
“quires ; their separation,” she ob-
served, “Would be only for a mo-
“ment, and they would soon rejoin
“each other, in a place, where their
“affections would be for ever united,
“and where misfortunes, disappoint-
“ments, and death, could not dis-
“turb their everlasting felicity.”

DISTRESSING as must be the
thought of refusing so reasonable a re-
quest, yet by piously looking beyond
the grave for bliss, she overcame the
most powerful inclinations of nature,
and

and refused the last tenders of love CH A P.
25.
from a dying husband.—Astonishing
are thy conquests O Religion! We
have here, a sublime display of thy
power!

THE lady Jane and her husband
were intended to have been executed
on the same scaffold, but the ministry,
fearful of raising the compassion of
the people, for her youth, beauty,
and innocence, changed their orders,
and directed that *she* should lose her
head within the walls of the tower.
As they were conducting her husband
from his apartments to his execution,
she beheld him through the window
of her room, and gave him a token of
remembrance, waiting with the ut-
most tranquillity, till the appointed
hour should bring her to his fate. She
even shunned not the sorrowful sight
of her husband's headless body, car-
rying

CHAP. rying back in a cart, and declared,
25. that she was more confirmed by the reports of the constancy of his end, and by the sight of so tender and melancholy a spectacle. In about two hours after the death of her husband, she was summoned to lay down her life at the fatal block. As Sir John Gage, constable of the tower, was conducting her to the scaffold (which was raised upon the green within the tower) he desired her to bestow on him a small present, which he might keep in remembrance of her; she immediately favoured his request, by giving him her table-book, in which she had just written three sentences, on seeing the dead body of her husband, one was in Greek, another in Latin, and a third in English. The purport of which was, “that human
“justice was against his body, but
“divine mercy would be favourable
“to his soul: that if her fault deserved

“served punishment, her youth, at CHAP.
 “least, and her imprudence were. 25
 “worthy of excuse; and that she
 “hoped, God and posterity would
 “shew her favour.”

WHEN she arrived at the scaffold,
 she immediately ascended it with a
 chearful aspect, and then calmly ad-
 dressed the surrounding multitude of
 pitying spectators, in nearly the fol-
 lowing words :

“Good people, I am come to die,
 “and by law am condemned to the
 “same. My offence against the
 “queen was in consenting to the will
 “of others, which is now deemed
 “treason. It was not my inclination
 “to offend.—It was by the counsel of
 “others that I erred.—They seemed
 “to have more understanding of
 “things than I, who knew little of
 “the law, and much less of titles to

CHAP²⁵ “the crown. I declare to God and
“you all that I am innocent as to the
“least desire of possessing it.—I pray
“you all good christian people, bare
“witness that I die a christian; and
“that I look to be saved by no other
“means, but only by ‘the mercy of
“God, in the blood of his son Jesus
“Christ.” She then acknowledged
her human errors, and thanked God
that she had been indulged with time
to repent of them; and at last earnest-
ly called upon the people to assist her
with their prayers. She then kneeled
down and read, in English, the fifty
first psalm, while an astonished mul-
titude sent forth their pious ejaculati-
ons to the throne of grace, in pity to
her misfortunes. For who could stand
unmoved at such a sight!—One of the
most amiable of her sex, not eighteen
years of age, possessed of health and
beauty, and a mind adorned in a su-
perlative degree, with the embellish-
ments

ments of wisdom and virtue, within a CHAP.
few minutes of an awful exit.—After 25
she had spent some time in devotion
she arose, and then untying her gown,
the executioner offered to assist her,
whom she desired to forbear, and
turning to her two women, who at-
tended her, they disrobed her. This
done, the executioner fell on his
knees, and asked her forgiveness, to
whom she replied, “The Lord for-
“give thee.—I do, and I pray thee
“dispatch me quickly.” Then kneel-
ing by the block, and discovering the
executioner preparing for his work,
she said, “Will you take off my head
“before I lay it down?” He an-
swered, “No madam.” Then she
tied a handkerchief over her eyes, and
feeling for the block, said, “Where is
it? Where is it?” After being di-
rected to it, she laid her neck upon it,
then stretching forth her body, cried,
“Lord

CHAP. "Lord Jesus, into thy hands I com-
25 "mend my spirit," which word, was
no sooner uttered than she received
the fatal stroke, that deprived her of
this earthly existence.—Thus ended
the life of the lady Jane Grey, on the
twelfth of February 1554.

PAUSE—stricken reader ! and suf-
fer the tributary tear to fall from thy
watery eye.—Thou hast beheld a na-
tive, meek, wise, and beauteous prin-
cess smile, as it were, when stretcht
upon the fatal block, at the uplifted
arm of dissolution.—Thou hast seen
piety, the choicest gift of heaven,
support an unfortunate female under
every distress that a sanguinary queen
could inflict ; such that few, very
few, have been able to endure with
fortitude. But her chaste name lives,
unrivalled in the annals of our coun-
try, while the detested Mary is for-
gotten except for her horrid crimes.
The



For the Memoirs of Leicester-shire.



HUGH LATIMER, B^p WORCESTER.

The tender sex must know the character of one only with abhorrence, while the other shall be their elucidator of virtue. CHAP.
25

It was reported that she died pregnant, and that the judge, (Morgan) who passed sentence upon her, died raging mad; continually crying out, "Take away the lady Jane from me." Within the same month the duke of Suffolk and lord Thomas Grey fell by the ax, for their temerity.

BISHOP LATIMER.

AMONGST those noble martyrs who dared to make a stand against the powerful church of Rome, in this reign, and sealed their faith, in laying down their lives for the reformation, Hugh Latimer, bishop of Worcester, must appear one of the foremost in that glorious

CHAP. rious catalogue. Mr. Latimer was
25 born at Thirkeffon, in this county, about the year 1470, his father being a reputable farmer in that village. After studying at Cambridge, he entered into priest's orders, and became a warm advocate for popery, opposing the reformers with great zeal in every step they took towards changing the system of religion in England. Among the favourers of the reformation was Mr. Thomas Bilney, a clergyman, distinguished by his exemplary piety and humanity. This gentleman being acquainted with Mr. Latimer, whom he much esteemed for the sincerity of his heart, at times, took occasion to point out to him the errors and corruptions that the church had fallen into ; and exhorted him to lay aside his prejudices, and candidly examine the objections urged against popery. Mr. Latimer indulged the injunction of his friend, and soon became

came a zealous and an assiduous pro-CHAP.
testant, and converted numbers both 25.
in town and university. The first remarkable opposition he met with was occasioned by a course of sermons he preached before the university, during the christmas holidays ; in which he shewed the great abuse in locking up the scriptures from the bulk of the people, and insisted that true religion was no where to be found but in the heart ; and that all ceremony and externals were of no value in comparison of it. These bold and unusual discourses created him many enemies among the favourers of the establish'd church, as he was a preacher of eminence, and always displayed great judgment in adapting his discourses to the capacities of his hearers. The clergy of the establishment now thought it high time to oppose these new opinions, openly, and crush the daring

CHAP. daring propagator. Amongst the numbers, that now appeared purposely to confute these propositions, was Dr. Buckingham, prior of the black-friars, a man of reputed eminence. This gentleman appeared in the pulpit, a few sundays after, with great pomp, and in a long discourse, attempted to point out the dangerous tendency of Mr. Latimer's opinions, particularly, that of having the scriptures in English. Mr. Latimer being present, paid a due attention to the solemn trifler, through the whole of his discourse, and at length became resolved to expose him. The whole university met together, on a succeeding sunday, when Mr. Latimer was to preach, and immediately before the sermon began, prior Buckingham entered the church and with an air of importance seated himself before the pulpit. Mr. Latimer followed the learned doctor thro' all

all his arguments, placed them in the strongest light, and satirized them with such a flow of wit and good humour, that without the least appearance of ill-nature, he made his adversary in the highest degree ridiculous. He then in a solemn manner addressed the people on the low esteem in which their holy guides had always held their understandings, and expressed the utmost astonishment at their being treated with such contempt; *he wished, he said, to see the day when his honest countrymen might be allowed the use of the holy scriptures*, and then concluded his discourse on a few scripture metaphors. This sermon had such an effect upon Dr. Buckingham, that he never more attempted to attack Mr. Latimer. After this the protestant party began to increase at Cambridge, which so irritated the clergy, that they grew clamorous, and every means were u-

CHAP. sed to silence this bold preacher ; which
25 was at length effected by the bishop
of Ely. But this was of a short duration, for there happened to be a protestant prior at Cambridge, (Dr. Barnes,) and he being exempt from episcopal jurisdiction, he without dread of the threatned consequence, licensed Mr. Latimer to preach there ; which he continued to do, with success to the protestant party, until at length the chapel, wherein he preached, was incapable of holding the numbers that flocked thither to hear him. To such a height was his fame for preaching arrived at about this time, that the bishop of Ely, who had the curiosity to attend one of his discourses, ingenuously confessed, *that Mr. Latimer was one of the best preachers he had ever heard.* His living exactly corresponded with an holy life ; his piety and goodness baffled the penetrating eye of malice

malice, and those impotent adversaries, CHAP.
who would have been glad to have 25.
defamed him. His enemies, unable
to stop the increase of the protestants
which his preaching occasioned, had
recourse to Henry VIII, who willing
to indulge the pope, being desirous of
having the divorce from his queen
done in a regular manner, ordered La-
timer, and his friend Bilney, to ap-
pear before a court constituted by car-
dinal Wolsey, and made bishop Tun-
stall president. Bilney was prevailed
upon to recant, and was sentenced to
burn a faggot; but Latimer and some
others were dismissed upon easier
terms, as Tunstall seemed to be desi-
rous of bringing them over by a gentle
hand. But this no ways abated the
ardor of Latimer, who returning to
Cambridge was received with open
arms by his friends there. Bilney soon
after severely repented of his instabil-
ity,

CHAP. ity, and preached boldly at Norfolk a-
25. gainst the errors of popery ; for which
he was burnt at Norwich.

THIS execution seemed to inspire the bold Latimer, and the leaders of the reformation, with undaunted courage : they without the least reserve publicly attacked the tenets of the established church, surrounded as they seemed to be by destructive flames. Latimer even ventured to write a letter to the king, against a proclamation, that had just been published, forbidding the use of the bible in English. Henry VIII. who had rather favoured the reformation, received it without shewing the least signs of dislike. Soon after the king, being desirous of shaking off the pope's supremacy by establishing his own, met with a warm advocate in the person of Latimer, which rivetted him to the royal favour.

vour ; inſomuch that he obtained a be-CHAP.
neſice in Wiltſhire, to which Mr. 25
Latimer retired, and not only entered
upon the duty of his office, but exten-
ded his labours throughout the pariſh
in a manner that gained him the affec-
tions of all ranks of people there. But
the clergy, who now began to fear the
worſt of conſequences from the abil-
ities of Mr. Latimer, had him cited
before Stokesley, biſhop of London ;
and on his appealing to his own ordi-
nary, another citation was obtained
out of the archbiſhop's court. Mr.
Latimer was then extremely ill of the
ſtone and cholic ; and altho', in the
depth of a ſevere winter, he immedi-
ately ſet out for the capital, without
deſiring the leaſt indulgence. He ex-
pected to have been examined about
his ſermons which he had delivered
with ſo much freedom, but found,
on his arrival, a paper put into his
hands.

CHAP. hands and an order to subscribe to its contents; which contained a declaration of those things that he had violently opposed. First, a belief in the efficacy of the masses for souls in purgatory, secondly, of prayers to the saints, thirdly, of pilgrimages to the sepulchres, &c. but he peremptorily refused to sign it, and was dismissed for the present with a copy of the articles. He was, soon after, sent for regularly three times every week, and wearied with captious questions, and his bodily infirmities; but at length a seasonable stop was put to their proceedings, by the command of the king, who soon after gave him the bishoprick of Worcester. On the succeeding new-year's-day, king Henry expected to be presented with a purse of gold from the new prelate, as had been customary on those occasions; but how was he astonished, when

when instead of a purse, Latimer presented him a testament, in which was a leaf doubled down to this passage, “Whoremongers and adulterers God will judge.” Thus, did this confident soldier of Christ not only check, by his own example and precept, the vices of the lower order of the people, but with an unequalled example did he endeavour to rouse his sovereign from those criminal passions that seemed rivetted to his heart.

WHEN the famous act of the six articles was passed, which gave an universal alarm to all the favourers of the reformation, he resigned his see, the 1st of July, 1539, and retired into the country, disdaining to hold any office in that church, where such terms were required. Among other severities, it was enacted, *That whoever should deny the doctrine of transubstantiation*

CHAP. *stantiation either in speech, or by writing, should be judged heretics, be burnt without any abjuration being admitted, and their real and personal estates be forfeited to the king.* As chearfulness ever accompanied the most serious actions of bishop Latimer's life, on the day of his resignation, when he had arrived at his lodgings, from the parliament house, he threw off his robes, and leaping up, declared to those that stood about him, "that he
"thought himself lighter than he e-
"ver found himself before."

THE severities of this law were rigorously put in execution against all offenders. Mr. Latimer retired into the country during the heat of this persecution, where he lead a sequestered life. But while he thought himself secure from the threatening storm, an accident befel him, that, not only

ly, had nigh cost him his life, but CHAP.
obliged him to go whither his inclinati- 25.
on wished him to be absent. While in
the midst of a life spent in virtuous re-
tirement, he received a bruise from
the fall of a tree: the contusion baffled
the best assistance he was able to pro-
cure in the country; he was therefore
under the disagreeable necessity of
seeking more able surgeons in Lon-
don.

HE had not been long there before
he found the Romish party predomi-
nant, and some of his best friends in
trouble; nor did he long remain in
concealment before he was charged
with having spoken against the late
act, and in consequence was committed
to the tower without any formal
process, where he remained during
the space of *six years*. But upon the
change of government, under Ed-

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CHAPWARD VI, he was set at liberty ; he
25 might then have resumed his see, as
his old friends were in power, but
this he had no relish for. He however
spent two years at Lambeth with arch-
bishop Cranmer, in composing the
book of Homilies, which was pub-
lished in Edward's reign, and in acts
of liberality to the poor, to whom he
was ever ready to become a warm ad-
vocate.

As Mr. Latimer's reputation as a
preacher was held in high estimation,
he was, during the former part of
king Edward's reign, appointed to
preach the Lent sermons before the
king : nor did he in this high appoint-
ment deviate from the line of his du-
ty : surrounded as he was by the
great, he spared not to place their
vices in the most odious light. " He
charged vice so home," says Mr.
Gilpin

Gilpin, "that he left no room for self deceit, or misapplication." CHAP. 25

ON the accession of Mary, and the re-establishment of popery being resolved on, Mr. Latimer retired into the country; and there, in his usual manner, endeavoured to awaken in men a sense of their guilt, and of the enormities of the church of Rome, by his preaching: not regarding the danger that surrounded him. But he was not suffered long to remain in this state of quietude, for when the blaze of persecution was every where lighted up, he was cited by the bishop of Winchester to appear before the council; but he was warned of his danger some hours before the messenger's arrival: he however like other eminent reformers of that age, shunned not the danger by a precipitate retreat, but immediately prepared for the

CHAP. the journey ; thinking that it ill be-
25 came the public advocates for an untainted religion of Jesus, to shew the least signs of fear when in the midst of the most imminent danger ; shewing rather that nothing should unbend him from a steady adherence to his professional declarations.

THE messenger expressed much surprize, on his arrival, to find Mr. Latimer prepared for the journey, to which Mr. Latimer replied, "That he was ready to attend him to London, thus called to answer for his faith, as he ever was to take any journey in his life : and he doubted not but God, who had already enabled him to stand before two princes, would enable him to stand before a third." The messenger then acquainted him, that he had no orders to seize his person, but Mr. Latimer on opening the letter was determined to obey it, and accordingly, set
out

out immediately for London. As he passed through Smithfield, "This place" (said he with a chearful air) "hath long groaned for me." The next day which was the 13th. of Sept. 1553, he appeared before the council, who having loaded him with reproaches, sent him to the Tower.—In the depth of the succeeding winter he suffered, with a manly resignation, the severities of a most intense season, without fire in that prison. One day as a servant of the lieutenant of the Tower had occasion to come into his room, Mr. Latimer bid him, (with an air of chearfulness) inform his master, "That unless he took better care of him, he should certainly escape him." Upon this message the lieutenant, with some discomposure in his countenance, came to desire an explanation; when Mr. Latimer smilingly answered, "I suppose, Sir, you expect

CHAP.

25

CHAP. expect I shall be burned; but if you
25. do not allow me a little fire this frosty
weather I shall be starved to death."

THE same persecuting zeal, that imprisoned Latimer, brought his old friends, archbishop Cranmer, and bishop Ridley, to the Tower: at first they lived in different apartments, but afterwards they were all confined in the same room, the Tower being then full of prisoners. This proved no ways disagreeable to these three venerable personages; here they enjoyed hours of social friendship, in reading and preparing for that awful conflict they soon expected.

ON the 10th. of March, an order was sent to the lieutenant of the Tower, directing him to give up the bodies of Cranmer, Ridley, and Latimer to Sir John Williams, to be conveyed by him to Oxford. Their servants

vants and every thing being taken from them excepting the cloaths on their backs. CHAP. 25.

A little before Easter they were confined in the common prison, in Oxford, where they were denied the use of pen, ink, and paper. "They did not" (says a sensible writer,) "employ their prison hours in vain lamentations, they endured their calamities with firmness and resignation; and as men whose hopes of happiness were not confined to the present state of existence." They spent most of the day in prayer; and such was the great constancy of Mr. Latimer's addresses, that he would often continue upon his knees, till he was unable to rise without help.

As Ridley, and Latimer, were one day sitting together, in prison, ruminating upon the solemn preparations making

CH A P. making for their trial, Ridley obser-
 25 ved, to his companion in sufferings,
 “ That the time was now come, that
 “ we are either to deny our faith, or
 “ to die in its defence,” and he desired
 Mr. Latimer, as being an old soldier of
 Christ’s, and had often withstood the
 fear of death, to give him some advice
 concerning his conduct in the hour of
 danger. My Lord, says Mr. Latimer.
 “ I am determined to give my adver-
 “ saries little trouble, I shall offer
 “ them a plain account of my faith,
 “ and shall say very little more ;—for
 “ I know their determination : it will
 “ be like their forefathers. *We have a*
 “ *law, and by that law ye ought to die.*”
 Ridley however not satisfied with this
 answer, pressed him more pathetical-
 ly to enter upon his request, in a
 train of thoughts that will ever do ho-
 nour to his understanding, and the
 cause he was so nobly engaged in.
 “ Of

“ Of my prayers (replied the venerable Latimer) “ you may be well as-
CHAP. 25

“ fured, nor do I doubt but I shall
“ have yours in return : and, indeed
“ prayer and patience should be our
“ great resources. For myself, had I
“ the learning of St. Paul, I should
“ think it ill laid out upon an elabo-
“ rate defence. Yet our case, my
“ lord, admits of comfort ; our ene-
“ mies can do no more than God per-
“ mits and God is faithful, who will
“ not suffer us to be tempted above
“ our strength. To use many words
“ would be vain ; yet it is requisite
“ to give a reasonable account of our
“ faith, if they will quietly hear us.
“ For other things in a wicked judg-
“ ment-hall, a man may keep silence
“ after the example of Christ. But
“ above all things be upon your guard
“ against the fear of death ; let us be
“ stedfast and unmoveable, assuring

VOL. IV. I “ ourselves

CHAP. "ourselves that we cannot be more
 25. "happy, than by being such Phillip-
 "pians, as not only believe in Christ,
 "but dare suffer for his sake."—Who
 "can but admire such noble fortitude,
 "such exalted sentiments?

ON the 13th of April, Cranmer, Ridley, and Latimer, were brought before the commissioners, who were appointed by the convocation to determine their fate.

AFTER the examination of the two former, who both denied that the natural body of Christ is really in the sacrament, after the words spoken by the priest, and also that the mass is no sacrifice propitiatory for the sins of the quick and dead, Mr. Latimer was then brought in, in his prison dress. He had a cap upon his head buttoned under his chin, a pair of spectacles hanging at his breast, a new testament

testament under his arm, and a staff H A P.
in his hand; and appeared much fa- 25
tigated by passing through the croud.
He then told the court, he was a very
old man, and sat down without fur-
ther ceremony. The same articles
were then tendered to him as were of-
fered to his companions in suffering,
which *he* also denied. He was then
told he must appear again before them
on the Wednesday following. At
this he shook his palsied head, and
seemed sorry that they should trouble
him and themselves any more in an
opinion that he was determined to car-
ry with him to the last moment of his
existence.

On Wednesday he was brought be-
fore the commissioners as before,
where, after some altercation and
some artful questions put, intending
to stagger him, they found him reso-
lute.

CH A P. lute to his purpose. The procurator
25 then rose up and dissolved the assembly ; and endeavoured by a short speech to the people to set the opinions of Latimer in a ridiculous light. The old bishop made no reply, but wrapping his gown about him, and taking up his new testament and his staff, walked out as unconcerned as he came in.

THE articles being publicly denied by all three ; there now remained only the passing a dreadful sentence, which they received on the friday following without the least emotion of dread : which was *that they were to suffer death by fire, for holding heretical opinions*. As soon as this awful sentence was pronounced, the hoary Latimer lifting up his eyes, cried out, “ I thank God most heartily, that he hath prolonged my life to this end.”

HOWEVER

HOWEVER desirous the leaders of CHAP. 25.
the persecution might be to have these
able advocates for the reformation dis-
patched, yet they did not suffer death
till almost a year and a half after: the
proceedings against them not being so
regular and satisfactory as some wish-
ed.

ON the 30th. of September, 1555.
the bishops Ridley and Latimer were
again tried for heresy, before a depu-
tation from the pope, in a more regu-
lar form; when they were in mild
terms desired to return to the bosom
of the church, as penitents, and re-
nounce their errors; but neither
threats nor entreaties were able to work
a change of sentiments. The sentence
of a torturing death was then passed a-
second time upon them, the 16th. of
October, which was to be executed in
a fortnight from that time. On the
appointed

C. H. A. P. appointed day, the proper officers re-
25 paired to the place of execution, (near
Baliol College, Oxford,) and lord
Williams drew his guard round the
stake at a convenient distance. All
things being thus prepared, the pri-
soners were sent for, and brought
within the horrid circle, accompanied
by the mayor of Oxford, and one of
the aldermen. Ridley was dressed in
his episcopal habit, and Latimer in his
prison attire, "the former," as a sen-
sible writer observes, "shewing what
"they had been, and the latter, what
"they were now reduced to."

WHILE they stood prepared for the
stake, they were compelled to hear a
sermon preached by Dr. Smith, who
asperged the characters and tenets of
these venerable prelates with great in-
humanity. Roused by such ungene-
rous treatment in their last moments,
and

and not terrified by the approach of death, they would willingly have answered him; but were not permitted.

CH A F.

25.

AN officer then acquainted them that all things were ready, and that they might prepare for the stake; which they did not delay to do. This was no sooner perceived by the spectators surrounding, then tears of compassion flowed plentifully down their cheeks. After Mr. Latimer had thrown off his prison dress, although an infirm old man, "He appeared in a shroud (says "Mr. Fox,) a comely father, as one might lightly behold." When he and his fellow sufferer were quite ready, they were fastened to the stake, with an iron chain. They then brought a faggot ready kindled, and laid at Ridley's feet, to whom Latimer said, "Be of good comfort, master Ridley, " and

CHAP. "and play the man.—We shall this
25 "day light such a candle in England,
"by God's grace, that I trust shall
"never be put out." The rapidity
of the flames, gave him but little time
to say more than to recommend his
soul to God, which he did in a most
fervent manner. While the flames
embraced him on every side, he was
seen to stroke his face with his hand,
and to all appearance he died soon af-
ter without much pain.

SUCH was the tragical end of Hugh
Latimer, bishop of Worcester, a dis-
tinguished leader of the reformation;
one who possessed all that is amiable
as a man, a prelate, and a true un-
daunted soldier of CHRIST. He
looked up to his heavenly guide, and
was taught, from his example, to en-
dure the severest trials of tribulation,
with fortitude and patience. Nor
could

EDWARD HASTINGS. 71

could the allurements of ambition, or CHAP. 25.
the dread of a torturing death, lead
him from the line of rectitude.—His
zeal, for the religion of our country,
will be admired, when the temporary
blandishments of pretending patriots
will be lost in a span of time !

EDWARD HASTINGS,

THIRD son of George, earl of
Huntingdon, is memorable for being
of infinite service to queen Mary, in
opposing the lady Jane Grey. He
raised a considerable force in these
parts, with whom he marched to Ma-
ry's assistance. After queen Mary
had subdued her enemies, she grate-
fully rewarded him, by making him
master of her horse, one of her privy
council, and knight of the most noble
order of the garter ; and he afterwards
obtained of her the grant of the manor

CH A Pof Loughborough, and was made bar-
 25 ron Haftings of that place, and lord
 chamberlain of her houſhold. But
 upon the death of Mary, he left the
 buſtle of a court, for an humble re-
 tirement in an hoſpital, erected by
 himſelf at Stoke-Pogeis in Bucking-
 hamſhire ; where he lived among the
 poor of that houſe, devoting his time
 to the ſervice of God, till the day of
 his death, which happened about the
 year of Chriſt 1566.

CHRISTOPHER DRAPER,

SON of John Draper of Melton-
 Mowbray in this county, was lord
 mayor of London A. D. 1556.

THOMAS MORE,

A young man about 24 years of
 age, whoſe knowledge of things was
 not above the common ſort, being on

a visit to his friends at Leicester, in the height of this persecuting reign, hap-
 pening to declare to some bigots of the Romish church, that his God was in heaven and not in the *pix*, upon which he was immediately taken and examined before a bishop, who asked him, whether Christ's blood, flesh, and bones were not in the *pix*? he answered, No; whereupon sentence was pronounced against him, in St. Margarets church Leicester, to be burned alive, which sentence he suffered in Leicester, with a manly fortitude, June 26th. 1556.

AND two others, John Jackson and a merchant's servant suffered at the stake about the same time, in Leicester, for denying the sacrament according to the church of Rome.

HUGH WESTON.

RECTOR of Baliol College, Oxford
 Margaret

CHAP. Margaret professor, archdeacon of
25. Colchester, and rector of Cliff, in Kent, was born at Burton-Overy in this County.

IN the first year of this reign he was made dean of Westminster, prolocutor of the convocation of the whole clergy for the province of Canterbury; which distinguished office he discharged with the highest commendation. In 1554 he was chosen moderator, when the disputations commenced between Cranmer, Ridley, and Latimer, and the popish clergy. Afterwards cardinal Pole deprived him of his deanery and cast him into prison, upon a charge of adultery, where he died in December 1558. He was supposed perfectly innocent of the crime; and indeed his will bespeaks him to be a truly good man, as he bestowed most of his wealth to the most pious purposes.

purposes. After the Romish manner, CHAP.
 he also left a certain sum for the bene- 25
 fit of his soul, by giving money for a
 dirge and mass to be performed; 1st.
 by the master and fellows of Baliol
 college, 2d. By the rector and fellows
 of Lincoln college, 3d. By the priest
 of the university of Oxford, 4th. By
 the rector of Ilip near Oxford, And
 5th. By the minister of Burton Overy,
 in this County.

L E I C E S T E R.

In the first parliament, in this reign,
 William Faunt and Thomas Farnham.
 Esqrs; were chosen members of parlia-
 ment for this borough: being the first
 instance of any gentlemen being cho-
 sen to represent it, but what were inha-
 bitants of Leiceſter.

CHAP.

16.

CHAP. XXVI.

*Elizabeth—Catherine Grey—Mary Grey
—Stoke—Chambers—Besby—Kib-
worth—Beauchamp—Beaumont—Fos-
ton--Dudley--St. Peter's--Free-School*

ELIZABETH,

1558

UPON the death of her sister Ma-
ry, became queen of England,
&c. Passing through London to the
tower in state, she had a bible pre-
sented to her, which she received
with both her hands, and kissing it,
she laid it to her breast, and declared,
that “That should be the rule by
which she meant to frame her con-
duct.” The greatest event of her reign
was the defeat of the declared invin-
cible armada. This fleet of mighty
power set sail from Lisbon, being
equipped

equipped by the united force of Spain CHAP.
26.
and her auxiliaries, to subject this country to her dominion and revenge: in vain did the pope bestow upon this attempt, the sanction of his blessing; in vain was heaven invoked for its aid by kings, nobles, priests, and people of extensive countries, subject to the controul of Rome. The grand DISPOSER of victory stamp'd not the design with the sanction of His will. He inverted the purposes of tyranny by blasting their favourite hopes. A small fleet, under the command of Howard, Sheffield, Drake, Hakings, Rawleigh, and Forbisher, when the eyes of the world were looking for a mighty conquest, destroyed with the arm of heaven, this great, this terrific enterprise.—Nations seem'd to pause at the event, while England wondered, ceased to bewail her impending destruction, and fell prostrate

CH A P.trate Before that power which is alone
 26 able to raise the weak, and depress
 the strong !—This glorious defeat is
 likely to die only with our country !
 Other glorious atchievements conspired
 to make this reign happy. But the
 queen's favourite, the earl of Effex,
 being sent upon an expedition to Ire-
 land, to subdue the popish party
 there, and his not succeeding, in the
 end, brought him to the block ; and
 it is generally believed contrary to the
 queen's intentions. After this cata-
 trophe, she seemed to live only to be
 miserable, she rejected consolation,
 and used but little sustenance ; and the
 affliction of her mind preying upon
 her body, she expired in the seventieth
 year

j Spain and her confederates lost eighty
 one ships, and half their number of soldi-
 ers, in this expedition ; the greater num-
 ber of which were destroyed by tempestu-
 ous weather.

year of her age, and forty-fifth of her CHAP.
reign. *k* 26

KATHERINE GREY,

SISTER to the unfortunate Jane, was also born in this county, and died a captive in the tower, Jan. 26th. 1567, where she had been nine years. She early in life married Henry, lord Herbert, son and heir to the earl of Pembroke; but after the downfall of her family in Mary's reign, the earl of Pembroke being pardoned, he ob-

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k The character of this princess deserves the highest commendation: she seemed to live to succour her people; and although the errors of human nature may be traced in the best of characters; yet she perhaps, had less of them than any of her predecessors. When we consider this female entrusted with the government of a great kingdom, we shall find such a display of wisdom, magnanimity, and steadiness that entitles her to universal admiration!

CHAP. 26. tained a divorce for his son. She afterwards married Edward Seymour, earl of Hertford, privately, without permission of queen Elizabeth. When she became pregnant, it was necessary to make their marriage known to the queen, who had been always averse to her marriage. Elizabeth thought it prudent to shew her dislike, in high terms, as she always considered the family rivals for sovereign power. She fined the earl 1500*l*. and imprisoned Katherine in the tower, to effect a perfect separation. But the effectual method that Elizabeth thought she had taken to prevent their cohabiting together, was frustrated by Hertford seeing her keeper: the effects of this forbidden meeting was the birth of a son, who survived him, and enjoyed his father's honours and estate.

MARY GREY,

ANOTHER sister of the unfortunate
Jane,

SABINE CHAMBERS. 81

Jane, died in this reign, A. D. 1578^{CHAP.}
She married Martin Keys, Esq; of 26.
Kent, but died without issue.

STOKE, *or* STOKE-MANSFIELD

A village in this county, that parish-
es to Hinkley, has a chapel; the
top of its *spire* was shaken down by an
earthquake that was felt generally in
England, A. D. 1580.

SABINE CHAMBERS,

A native of this county, and a no-
ted disputant at Oxford. He was
brought up in the protestant religion,
until he became master of arts, he
then not being able to satisfy himself
respecting some points in the protes-
tant profession, entered into the socie-
ty of Jesus at Paris in 1588. He was
appointed divinity reader in the uni-
versity of Dole in Burgundy, and at
last

CHAP last was sent into England to convert
 25. the hereticks. Amongst his writings
 was a favourite one, called the garden
 of the Virgin Mary, printed at
 St. Ome's.

BEEBY, or BIBY,

THE native place of Sir Robert
 Cateline, who after studying common
 law, became so eminent in its profes-
 sion, that queen Elizabeth made him
 lord Chief-Justice of the King's-Bench.
 In that elevated station he discharged
 the duties of the office to the general
 satisfaction of the nation : particular-
 ly the trial of Thomas duke of Nor-
 folk, for high treason ; when the duke,
 in an artful defence, would have set
 aside the testimony of some foreigners,
 whose evidence he argued was not le-
 gal ; but the judge made this pertinent
 reply, " That their evidence ought
 " to

KIBWORTH BEAUCHAMP. 83

“ to be taken, and that it entirely rest-
“ ed in the breasts of the peers to af-
“ ford credit to their testimony or not.”

CH A P.

2.6

He left only one daughter at his death, which happened A. D. 1574, who was married to an ancestor of the earl of Sunderland.

KIBWORTH BEAUCHAMP.

WHICH prior to this reign was the inheritance of the Beauchamps, earls of Warwick, who held it of the kings of England, by grand serjeanty. i. e. To be chief pantler to the monarch's of England on the day of their coronation. “ This,” says the author of the antiquities of Magna Britania, “ is a “ notable tenure : 1st. Because it can “ hold of none but the king. 2d. Be- “ cause such as hold their land by it, “ must perform their service in their “ proper person, as to be sewer, butler, “ champion

CHAP. "champion or such like at the coronation. After the family of Beauchamps was extinct, (continues the same author) queen Elizabeth gave it to Ambrose Dudley, earl of Warwick, to hold it of her by the same tenure."

JUDGE BEAUMONT.

Who died in this reign, A. D. 1598, appears to be a native of this county, as a monument was erected for him in the church of Belton. One of his name, namely John Beaumont of Grace-Dieu Esq; was in the possession of its impropriation in 1622.

FOSTON.

A village in this county, memorable for being the birth place, of an extraordinary genius, named, Author Faunt, a subtle reasoner in

in defence of the romish CHAP.
church. He went to college under
the tuition of Mr. John Potts, an e- 26
minent philosopher, at the early age
of fourteen; but his tutor being ex-
pelled the college for his adherence to
popery, this young man attended him
to Brabant, where his tutor procured
him admittance into the Jesuit's col-
lege there. After taking his degree of
batchelor of arts, he removed to Mun-
chen in Bavaria; and after taking his
degree of master of arts there, he went
to the English college of Jesuits at
Rome, and became divinity reader in
that college; and was much esteemed
by pope Gregory XIII, who gave him
singular marks of his friendship. Had
the pope lived till a favourable oppor-
tunity might have offered, he would
doubtless have distinguished him by
a degree of eminence that few attain
to. He had, by permission of this ho-
ly

CHAP.^{ly} father, a seal which being affixed
26 to any writing, would secure his countrymen from the inquisition in the popish countries. He died at Vilna, the chief city of Lithuania in Poland, A D 1591, after being governour of the college of Jesuits at Posna ten years. There he lived in the greatest esteem not only by the subordinates of his college, but by the king of Poland, who erected it ; and made Mr. Faunt first governour of it. He wrote several books in defence of the church of Rome, wherein his wisdom and extensive learning are displayed in every page.

THIS gentleman had two brothers, William and Anthony, born at the same village. The former was appointed to a command in the low countries by queen Elizabeth, where he was respectfully entertained by the prince of Orange. He was by the said prince afterwards

EARL of LEICESTER. 37

afterwards made colonel of a regiment CHAP. 26.
for his martial abilities ; and was slain
by a poisoned bullet shot into his
thigh.—Arthur his younger brother,
being with him, at his death returned
to England, and became justice of the
peace for this county, and High-She-
riff in 1587. And at the intended
Spanish invasion, he was appointed
commander of all the forces raised in
Leicestershire on that occasion ; but
being supplanted by ——— Hastings,
Esq; of Kirby, he fell into a melan-
choly and died soon after.

EARL of LEICESTER.

ROBERT DUDLEY, son of the duke
of Northumberland, who was behead-
ed in Mary's reign for endeavouring
to make lady Jane Grey, his daugh-
ter-in-law queen, was created earl of
Leicester, and became a great favour-

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CHAP 26 pite to queen Elizabeth. He was esteemed a great politician and a soldier; and obtained great honours and employments in that reign: but as this and the succeeding earls of Leicester were not connected with this county, by birth or residence, I shall not particularise their lives. Suffice it to say, that queen Elizabeth condescended to give this earl a singular mark of her favour, by girding on his thigh, a sword of great value. He died A. D. 1588.

A tempest happened in Leicester, A. D. 1562, which did considerable damage to the roofs of houses, chimneys, and to some buildings.

St. PETER'S CHURCH, &c. LEICESTER.

THIS church stood on a piece of ground which is now an orchard near the

ST. PETER'S CHURCH. 89

the town jail. The parish being small H A P.
 and insufficient to keep it in repair, 26
 and unable to maintain a clergyman,
 in this reign it came into disuse, the
 queen therefore, A. D. 1563, sent an
 order to have an account taken of the
 bells, lead, and other materials; and
 the year following, an order came for
 one of the bells to be sold to repair
 the *School-House*, an old building
 where the present *Free-School* stands;
 and Nov. 16th. 13th. of Elizabeth,
 an order was made to take down the
 lead and timber to be preserved until
 further orders. / The 7th. of April,
 the 15th of this reign, the corporation
 of Leicester purchased of the queen the
 materials of this church to build the
 Free-School: and at a common-hall
 March 26th. the 33d. of Elizabeth it
 was.

/ The lead weighed 4 fother; and the
 bells, four in number, including that sold,
 weighed 30 hund. 2 qr and 20 pd.

CHAP. was finally settled that the parish of
 26. *St. Peter* should be united to that of
All-Saints. *St. Peter's* church-yard,
 which is now an orchard, is enjoyed
 by the minister of *All-Saints*.

OF the other churches of Leicester
 that are ruined and gone, (*viz.*) *St.*
Leonard's, *St. Michael's*, *St. Clement's*,
St. Sepulchre's-Chapel, and *St. August-*
tin's, but little can be said to any cer-
 tainty.—*St. Leonard's* was destroyed
 at the grand rebellion, and its parish
 remains now distinct from any other.
 The church-yard is still reserved for
 its original intention. This church
 was rebuilt but a few years before the
 troubles broke out in *K. Charles's* time,
 but Leicester being then made a gar-
 rison, it was taken down to prevent
 an annoyance from the enemy, it
 commanding the passage over the
 north-bridge. In this parish was for-
 merly

merly a mint for coining money. *m*—CH A P

It is not certain where St. Michael's church stood, being long since demolished, but most likely in some of the back-lanes or gardens in All-Saints parish; because the parish that belonged to it was united to All-Saints.—

“As to St. Clement's church, (Mr.

“Cart observes) I have found by

“some old writings there was a *lane*

“between the white-friars, and the

“back side of the houses opposite All-

“Saints church, called St. Clements-

“lane, and therefore I conclude that

“it was situate in or near it; and if

“so, then it was also united to All-

“Saints.”——St. Sepulchre's-chapel

stood near where the Leicester Infirmary now stands: many hu-

man bones were found when digging to make a foundation for that build-

ing.—St. Augustin's stood on the

ground,

m William the Conquerors survey.

CHAP. ground, or near it, where the old
 26. shambles now stand, near St. Nicholas's church. *n* The Rev. Mr. Cart says it was not a parish church, the church of Cosby, about five miles from Leicester, being appropriated to the maintenance of it. It is believed that this place of worship was destroyed soon after the conquest by William I: and was a very inconsiderable place.

PART of the house which is now occupied by Mr. John Stevens, in Leicester, seems to have been a place of worship before the reformation, although no account of it has reached the present time. It is a spacious
 room

n See Mr. Cart's opinion, the historian, page 36, vol. I. The note subjoined in that page, the reader will be pleased to observe, is not meant as a negative to that gentleman's opinion respecting a church being built there: it alludes only to his assertion respecting the temple of Janus.

room, lighted by a window in front CH A P.
 which is continued from one end of 26
 the room to the other. In this win-
 dow there are, regularly ranged, 28
 pieces of ancient paintings upon glass,
 the subjects as follows. No. 1———
 2 St. Christopher. 3 St. Catharine.
 4 St. George and the Dragon. 5 The
 salutation of the virgin Mary. 6 The
 birth of Christ. 7 The wise men's
 offering. 8 The presentation of Jesus
 in the temple. 9 The resurection of
 Jesus Christ. 10 His ascension. 11—
 12 An altar-piece. 13 Christ after
 his resurrection surrounded with a glo-
 ry. 14——15 Marriage. 16 Bap-
 tism. 17 Confirmation. 18 Ordina-
 tion. 19 Absolution. 20 Unction.
 21 Giving the sacrament to a dying
 man. 22 Interment. 23 Making a
 cardinal. 24 Corporal penance. 25
 Alm-sgiving. 26 Pilgrimage. 27
 and 28 Town arms.—I am apt to
 think

CHAP. think that this place was a chantry be-
 26. longing to Corpus Christi, or St. George's Guild. ^o Some perhaps may have a happier conjecture.

FREE-SCHOOL, LEICESTER.

THIS building was finished the 16th of Elizabeth : on the north end of which was built, at the same time, a house for the residence of the head-master, towards which the aldermen and common-council of Leicester, contributed. There is a stone on the front of the school which is expressive of the benefactors names who endowed it. The whole amount of which is per annum 67l 12s. Amongst these names are those of queen Elizabeth, the earl of Huntingdon, and Sir William Wigstone, who were the principal subscribers. The original intention of this seminary was for a master and
 two

^o See pages 9. 13. vol. III.

two ushers; but now each of these gentlemen, who are all clergymen of the established church, teach, as it were, separate schools there. Visitors were also appointed, who are the mayor and aldermen, the master and confrator of Wigstone's Hospital; and, either from custom or appointment, the clergymen of the parish-churches frequently attend on those occasions. The teachers are chosen by the mayor and aldermen of Leicester.

UNDER this article it may be also necessary to remark, that queen Elizabeth, to whom the Lancaster estates had descended, leased first to ——— Hastings, for twenty one years, and afterwards to the corporation of Leicester for thirty one years, "The Grange near the Borough of Leicester with the appurtenances, together with all lands, meadows, feedings and pasturages to the said Grange belonging,

C H A Por with the same usually occupied ; and
26 also all that close called *Gosling-croft*
otherwise Gosling-close, with the ap-
purtenances in the Borough of Leiceſ-
ter, and in the fields of Leiceſter ;
together with the tack of cattle to be
depaſtured in the cow-lees and ſouth-
fields of Leiceſter aforeſaid, and the
water-mill called Newark-mill, and
the holme called gooſe-holme with the
water, and a tenement the corner of
the lane leading to the mill aforeſaid,
and the land-ſwanne, and a meadow
called *Bead-houſe-meade*, for the year-
ly rent of thirty two pounds and fix-
pence.” And in the reign of her ſuc-
ceſſor James I, all the above were ſold,
by an indenture made the 7th of Feb.
in the 12th. year of that reign, by Sir
William Smith, Knight, of Leiceſ-
terſhire, and Humphrey Smith, Ci-
tizen of London, to Thomas Sache-
verell, Robert Gilliot, James Andrew,
Thomas

LEASE of the SOUTH-FIELDS. 97

Thomas Parker, William Ive, and^{C H A P.}
Rowland Pusey, all of the borough of 26.
Leicester, gentlemen, for one thousand pounds ; including also the following particulars among many others therein specified. “ And also all and singular the messuages, mills, houses, edifices, structures, barns, stables, dove-houses, orchards, gardens, shops, cellars, lands, tenements, chapels, church-yards, meadows, feedings, pasturage, commons, wastes, void way, grounds lately briers, moors, marshes, waters, fisheries, fishings, woods, underwoods, trees, and all the land, ground, and soil of the same woods, underwoods, &c ; and also reversions, mines, quarries. services” &c. &c. &c.

THE reader will find by the list of mayors, page 23, vol. II, that the purchasers Gilliot or Gillot, Andrews, Parker,

CHAP Parker, and Ive, were principal men
26. of the corporation of Leicester, by
their serving the office of mayor; the
last name occurs three times in about
twenty years. As I have seen a copy
of the indenture, I have inserted the
above for the information of the reader;
much having been said of late
respecting the freemen's privileges.
In this indenture no mention is made
of either the freemen of Leicester, or
even the corporation, who are now
the owners of the fields, &c. mentioned
above. Yet we may discover
from the indenture mentioning *the tack
of cattle*, that the freemen of Leicester
enjoyed then, what they now enjoy
in that particular. I think it seems
therefore highly probable, that the
freemen of Leicester enjoyed the privilege
of wintering their cattle in the
south fields, i. e. *Mary's-fields*, prior
to this purchase. Perhaps it was too
notorious to need a proviso.

CHAP.

CHAP. XXVII.

CHAP.

27.

James I—Sir Francis Hastings—Sir Everard Digby—A gravestone Inscription—Dr. John Daport—Robert Smith—Richard Kilby—Thomas Lodge—Sir John Beaumont—Miscellaneous accounts—Butt-close.

JAMES I,

A Descendant of Henry VII. Began his reign with popularity. The *gun-powder-plot* is the greatest event to mark the complexion of this reign.

1603

A proclamation was issued commanding all jesuits and seminary priests to leave the land, but it seemed to have no better effect than to fan the flame of an horrid scheme, invented by the most sanguinary beings that ever appeared in human shape. A plot was projected by the papists to extirpate, at once, the king and both houses of parliament, and this by gun-powder.

CH A P. powder. The conspirators, among
27 whom were the names of Catesby and
Piercy, the former a gentleman of an
ancient family, and the latter a de-
scendant of the house of Northumber-
land, had taken a cellar that was un-
der the parliament house, and had laid
therein vast quantities of gunpowder,
which they had carried thither and
some faggots previous to the meeting
of the parliament.

WHEN the day was near approach-
ed the conspiracy was detected by the
following memorable event.

ALTHO' these hardened villains
seemed never to have been possessed of
the most distant pity or remorse for
their devoted countrymen, yet one fa-
ved the whole, who wished only to
exclude his friend. A few days be-
fore the meeting of the parliament,
lord Mounteagle received a letter that
advised.

advised him in urgent terms to keep CHAP.
from parliament, as there would be a 27
blow struck of the utmost consequence;
and yet no one would know from
whence it came : this letter was shown
to the king, who after pausing some
time, declared to some of his courtiers
that, he imagined some mischief was
intended by gunpowder. Orders were
then immediately given to have the
rooms under the parliament house well
examined. Sir Thomas Knevet a
justice of the peace was sent with at-
tendants for that purpose, the night be-
fore the meeting of parliament, who
finding Guy Fawkes, (brought out of
Flanders for the purpose,) at the door
of the vault he immediately seized
him, while the cellar was examined ;
and on moving some faggots they
found a great quantity of gunpowder
concealed under them, while the
matches, and every thing proper for
setting

CHAP. setting fire to the train, were found
27 in Fawkes's pocket.

THIS hardened wretch on being detected manifested his implacable spirit, by wishing he had set fire to the train, and at once involved himself and his keepers in the destruction.

It is natural to imagine what followed, some of the conspirators lost their lives, and others had heavy fines imposed upon them: the just reward of such inhuman intentions. The day on which this horrid act was intended to be perpetrated, is by authority appointed a day of thanksgiving.

JAMES was desirous of cultivating a peaceable disposition among every order of his people, but his efforts were of little purpose, for during the
remaining

remaining part of his reign he was of-^{CHAP}
 ten disturbed by a factious spirit, that²⁷
 began every where, throughout his do-
 minions, to manifest itself; the fore-
 bodings of that dreadful calamity
 which this nation suffered in the suc-
 ceeding reign.

THIS monarch died of an ague at-
 tended with a fever. A little before
 his death he sent for his son and suc-
 cessor, whom he earnestly entreated
 to protect the infant church, establish-
 ed in England. *p*

1625

VOL. IV

O

Sir

p James, who was possess of many noble
 accomplishments and shining virtues, had
 some foibles that ought rather to be attri-
 buted to his country from whence he came,
 to govern a restless people, than to the in-
 nate feelings of his heart. He has been
 charged by many late writers, with a de-
 sire of extending the prerogatives of the
 crown; but be this as it may, it is certain
 that the people whom he had governed up-
 wards

CHAP Sir FRANCIS HASTINGS.

27

DIED in 1600. He was of that distinguished family who have long inhabited this county. He was a sensible and eloquent speaker in the house of commons. In the preceding reign, he early embraced the reformed religion, but with that degree of moderation that distinguishes the man of God, from the rash fanatic. He lived in the most affectionate manner with his brothers, who, at the same time adhered strictly to popery. He also presented a petition to parliament to tolerate the fallen church, and wrote a book called, "The watch-word to all true Englishmen;" and some others in opposition to popery.

Sir

wards of 22 years, shewed the most unbounded signs of affection for him at his death. But this is attributed by the same writers, to the opinion the people had of his extensive learning.

SIR EVERAD DIGBY, CHAP.
27

WHO was one of the conspirators in the diabolical gunpowder plot, and who deservedly suffer'd death on that account, held the manor of Tilton, in this county. It had been the inheritance of that ancient family a series of years, but on the attainder of Sir Everad, a curious question arose in law, the 7th of James Ist, whether the wardship of the heir, then under age, belonged to the king, by the 32d and 34th of Henry VIII? It was determined by the two chief justices, and chief baron, and the whole court of wards in the negative.

A GRAVE-STONE INSCRIPTION

ON the 8th of December 1611 died Mrs. Mary Heyrick, at Leicester, aged 97 years; to whose memory, and husband's, Mr. John Heyrick,
who

CH A P. who died April 2d. 1589, aged 76,
 27 was erected, in St. Martin's church,
 Leiceſter, a marble ſtone with the
 following extraordinary particulars :

“ THAT *he* lived in one houſe with
 “ Mary his wife, full fifty-two years,
 “ and in all that time never buried ei-
 “ ther *Man, Woman, or Child*, tho’
 “ he had ſometimes twenty in family ;
 “ and that *ſhe* ſaw before her death,
 “ of her children, grand-children,
 “ and great grand-children 143 in
 “ number.” Few travellers that are
 curious, who paſs through Leiceſter,
 omit ſeeing this inſcription.

KING James was at Leiceſter the
 28th of Auguſt, 1614.

In the year 1613, a Mrs. Clark,
 keeper of the Blue-Boar inn, or Blue-
 Bell inn, oppoſite the Free-ſchool,
 Leiceſter,

Leicester, was robbed and murdered C H A P.
by her servant maid and seven men.— 27.

The relation being singular, and interesting, I shall give it as told by Sir Roger Twisden, who had it from persons of undoubted credit, who were not only inhabitants of Leicester, but saw the murderers executed.

“ WHEN king Richard III marched into Leicestershire against Henry, earl of Richmond, afterwards Henry VII, he lay at the Blue-Boar inn, in the town of Leicester, where was left a large wooden bedstead, gilded in some places, which after his defeat and death in the battle of Bosworth, was left, either thro’ haste, or as a thing of little value (the bedding being all taken from it) to the people of the house; thence forward this old bedstead, which was boarded at the bottom, (as the manner was in those days);

CH A P. days) became a piece of standing furniture, and passed from tenant to tenant with the inn."

IN the reign of queen Elizabeth this house was kept by one Mr. Clarke, who put a bed on this bedstead, which his wife going to make hastily, and jumbling the bedstead a piece of gold dropped out. This excited the woman's curiosity; she narrowly examined this antiquated piece of furniture, and finding it had a double bottom, took off the uppermost with a chisel, upon which she discovered the space between them filled with gold, part of it coined by Richard III, and the rest of it in earlier times.

"Mr. Clarke (her husband) concealed this piece of good fortune, though, by degrees, the effects of it made it known, for he became rich from a low condition, and, in the space of a few

few years, mayor of the town; and then the story of the bedstead came to be rumoured by the servants. At his death, he left his estate to his wife, who still continued to keep the inn, tho' she was known to be very rich; which put some wicked persons upon engaging the maid servant to assist in robbing her.—These folks, to the number of seven, lodged in the house, plundered it, and carried off some horse loads of valuable things, and yet left a considerable quantity of valuables scattered about the floor; as for Mrs. Clark herself, who was very fat, she endeavoured to cry out for help, upon which, her maid thrust her fingers down her throat, and choaked her, for which fact she was burnt, and the seven men, who were her accomplices, were hanged at Leicester some time in the year 1613."

Dr.

CHAP. Dr. JOHN DUPORT,

27

WAS born at Sheephead, in this county. He was a man of extensive learning, master of Jesus college, Cambridge, and three time vice-chancellor of that university. He was one of the translators of the bible. He died A. D. 1617, and left a son, afterwards Dr. James Duport, a man of very shining abilities.

ROBERT SMITH,

A native of Market-Harborough, became a citizen of London, and being a worthy man, was made comptroller of the city's chambers, and one of the attorneys in the lord mayor's court. His care and industry procured him an agreeable competency; seven hundred and fifty pounds of which he gave to the chamberlain of London, to purchase lands for the maintenance

THOMAS LODGE. 111

maintenance of a lecturer in the place CHAP.
of his nativity, and for other pious 27
uses. He died A. D. 1618.

RICHARD KILBY,

BORN at Ratcliff on the Wreke, in this county, was a preacher of considerable note in Oxford, where he exerted his extensive knowledge in defence of the reformation. He was rector of Lincoln college there, prebendary of Lincoln, and Hebrew professor of that university. None of his writings are handed down in print except a sermon preached at the death of his friend, Dr. Holland. He died November 17th. 1620.

THOMAS LODGE,

DOCTOR of Physick, supposed to have been a native of Leicestershire, settled in London, where sacrificing

VOL. IV. P some

C H A P. ²⁷ some hours of relaxation from his profession to the muses, he became an admired poet; but his writings were not calculated for posterity, being chiefly of the temporary and local kind. He died of the plague A. D. 1625.

Sir JOHN BEAUMONT,

SON of Francis Beaumont, who was one of the justices of the common pleas in the last reign, was born at Grace-Dieu, in this county. He studied at Lincoln's Inn, but changing the dry pursuits of the law for the agreeable study of poetry, became possessed of a lively imagination. He wrote several poems, among which was one called Bosworth-field. He also translated into English, part of Horace, Virgil, Lucan, Persius, Claudian, &c, which were all printed
in

MISCELLANEOUS ACCOUNTS. 113.

in London 1629, the year after his death. CHAP. 27

MISCELLANEOUS ACCOUNTS.

THE following are some particulars which appeared in the Leicester journal a few years back, collected from the parish books of Syfton, by Mr. John Lewin; being remarks made by the then vicar of that place.

“ In the year 1601, all the hay was
“ inned out of Syfton great meadow
“ on the Wednesday before St. James.

“ —In the year 1602, harvest was so
“ late that it was St. Matthew’s day
“ before all the barley was inned.—

“ In the year 1603, a pound of good
“ hops was sold for 2s. 6d. a strike of
“ malt for 17d. and a strike of wheat

“ for 2s. 4d.—In the year 1606,
“ grinding

CHAP. 26. "grinding was so scant either by wa-
 "ter or wind, that at the feast of St.
 "Luke they came from Hinckley to
 "Syfton to grind their corn.—In the
 "year 1607, the frost was so hard,
 "and so continual, that it was after
 "St. Valentine's day before men
 "could set forth plough.—In the year
 "1609, there died at Loughborough
 "of the plague, in one year, 500
 "people.—In the year 1654, there
 "was only one child baptized in the
 "aforesaid parish of Syfton. *q*

BUTT-CLOSE,

LEICESTER was given by queen Elizabeth, in the thirty first year of her reign, to the mayor, bailiffs, and burgettes of Leicester, by letters patent under the seal of the dutchy court of Lancafter. It was afterwards granted

q Syfton is one of the most populous villages in Leicestershire.

ed by them, 1624, to Thomas Blount C H A P
in consideration of his paying 6l. and 27.
being subject to the following conditions. He was to pay a yearly rent of
ten shillings to that body ; and at all
times hereafter, he subjected himself,
and his heirs, &c. to uphold, repair,
and keep a sufficient number of Butts
at his own expence, for the use and
exercise of artillery : and if he, or his
heirs, &c. did not permit as usual the
inhabitants of Leicester to repair thi-
ther as had been customary, for the
purpose of shooting at the said Butts ;
and if he, or his heirs, &c. molested
the inhabitants when bleaching their
yarn, cloth, or drying of cloaths in
that part which was then enclosed and
planted with fruit trees, as had been
customary for those and other purpo-
ses, then the above grant was to be ut-
terly void and of none effect.—This
place

CHAP. place was a long time used for the purpose of learning the inhabitants of Leicester to be good marksmen: a custom similar to what is now called *shooting at the target*.—Since that time it was resorted to by the Free-School boys of Leicester as a play-place; but it is now rather a nuisance to that part of the town than of any public utility.

CHAP.

C H A P. XXVIII.

*Charles I—Buckingham—Pestel—Butler
 —Seige of Leicester—Sidney, earl of
 Leicester—Bainbrige—Leigh—Vines
 —Weldon—Grey—Burtons—Butler
 —Marshall—Jacomb—Hospitals.*

C H A R L E S I.

THE little room which is necessarily allowed in this work, for the historical relation of each reign, is considerably insufficient to display the particulars that distinguish this in the annals of our country. We must, therefore, content ourselves with endeavouring to shew the complexion of the times, and with being a little particular in relating the tragical end of this unhappy monarch.

W H E N

CHAP. WHEN the eyes of James were
26. closed, his son Charles was proclaimed king. The animosities of the last reign, which began to be violent towards the latter end of it, did not a little contribute to the flame kindled in this. The Commons, who in the last reign, did not resist the supplies demanded by James, began in the very first instance in this, to retrench the necessary request of the young king, and demanded an account of some expenditures in the last reign : this unhappy beginning, added to the various sectaries that had branched from the reformation, did not a little contribute to the calamities which succeeded. Happy would it be for a state, if men of opposite sentiments were, instead of magnifying errors that human nature is subject to, to cultivate peace, by judging charitably of each others actions. But we are
not

not to expect this blessing from the CHAP. 28.
 breast of frail, partial man; ever
 restless for power, never willingly
 subject to controul. In this reign, a-
 las! were numbers of this cast who
 fed the dictates of rancour, until their
 hearts grew callous to the nobler pur-
 poses of their creation; trampling,
 without feeling the least impulse of
 compassion, upon the blood of thou-
 sands of their fellow creatures, ag-
 gravated to such horrid deeds by the
 vile incendiaries of the age.

HERE was seen a king, with some
 loyal subjects, contending with the
 parliament and their adherents; the
 former in some instances, perhaps ex-
 tending his prerogatives, when a com-
 pliance, to moderate subsidies requir-
 ed, might have prevented it; and the
 latter determined to crush some ser-
 vants of the crown, who had gained

VOL. IV. Q their

CHAP. their displeasure in the last reign,
28. without considering the duty they owed their young king.

THE fire was kindled and the flames were fanned from every quarter; soon every where presented scenes of destruction:—The earth was stained with the blood of its human inhabitants; affinity had no social tie; consanguinity wrestled with each other: The father met his son in the field of slaughter, and the offspring without remorse pierced the parents heart: Brothers knew no affection; all was jarring, discord, and gloomy horror. Battles were fought and the loss no where to be found but in numbers. England mourned for the loss of her inhabitants.—Propagation almost ceased to pour forth her multiplying increase; the charms of the female gave way to the horrors that attend rebellion. At length the field of
Nasby

Nasby decided the unnatural contest. CHAP.
Here England exchanged a *King* for a ^{28.}
lawless *Tyrant*, whose ambition knew
no bounds; whose hypocrisy was so
well suited to the puritanic times in
which he lived, as to render him com-
pletely victorious over regal power.—
Let us now attend the vanquished
king through the most distressing
scenes that royalty ever knew. In
vain did he seek protection amongst
his advocates in England;—the fan-
guinary conqueror had disarmed the
bravest of his friends. In vain did he
flee to Scotland for shelter;—his na-
tive countrymen bartered their king
for gold. He was led a captive from
place to place, when no one dared, e-
ven, to pity him. He beheld his ene-
mies, divided, struggling for power,
but found no relief from their jarring
interests. He was taken, guarded, as
the vilest criminal, before a court un-
known

CH A P known to our laws ; self-created for
 28 the vilest purpose,—murder ! He
 smilingly beheld the baneful crew, as
 a mock tribunal, and shewed a just
 contempt for his arbitrary judges.
 One, who had fed keenly upon the
 vitals of his country, at last, was
 found to pass the impending sentence.

AN intermediate space of three days
 only, was allowed him to prepare for
 death : [this short interval was em-
 ployed, chiefly, in ejaculations to the
 throne of grace.—At length the fatal
 day arrived, the 30th of January,
 1648, gloomy in the annals of our
 country. He was then led, lamb like,
 to the awful scaffold, attended by bi-
 shop Juxton.—The gazing multitude
 stood silent at his approach. They be-
 held and admired his fortitude with
 reverential awe. Pity sent forth the
 sympathetic

• Serjeant Bradshaw.

sympathetic tear from almost every eye; 'twas all they now could offer, no efforts could assist their dying sovereign but prayers. Cromwell's soldiers encircled the scaffold, which prevented his speaking to the people; he therefore addressed himself to the colonel of the guard, in which, after explaining his conduct as a king, he christian-like forgave his enemies, and exhorted the people to return to their duty under his son and successor. He then prepared for the block, when the bishop took occasion to observe to him, "That there is but one state more
"fir though turbulent and trouble-
"some, is yet very short. Consider
"it will soon carry you a great way;
"it will carry you from earth to hea-
"ven, and there you shall find to
"your great joy, the prize to which
"you hasten, a crown of glory."—"I
"go (returned the king) from a cor-
"ruptible

CHAP. "ruptible to an incorruptible crown,
 28. "where no disturbance can take
 "place." He then laid his head upon
 the block, and a masked executioner
 severed it from his body at one stroke,
 and another, in the like disguise, took
 it up streaming with blood, and cried
 aloud, "This is the head of a traitor."
 While the commiserating multitude
 reclined their heads in gloomy
 silence, pondering o'er the sad affecting
 scene.

THUS fell Charles Ist, in the forty-
 ninth year of his age. /

DUKE

/ His character has been variously drawn
 by the writers of opposite parties; the one
 giving him the appellation of tyrant, while
 another would elevate him to more than
 man. I consider him in the most unami-
 able point of view giving up his friend
 and confidant, lord Stafford, a prey to his
 enemies; it betrays a weakness, however
 urgent at that critical moment, which the suf-
 ferer

THE great favourite of king Charles and his father James, was born at Barkby, in this county. He was the fourth son of Sir George Villiers. His mother, who was of the family of Beaumont, had the care of his education; she sent him to France on that account, where he continued several years, and returned (says a writer of eminence) one of the compleatest men in Christendom. After having been introduced at court, king James was so captivated with his person and accomplishments,

ferer might with less difficulty forgive, than were reconcile to our conceptions of friendship. But view him in a christian light, we see majesty rise from amid' the gloom of misfortune, insult, and distress, gloriously surrounded by religion, confidence, and bliss; and vanquishing the dread of separation from all that was dear to him here, and at last triumphing over pain and death with the composure of a christian Hero!

CHAP²⁸ Accomplishments, that he not only made him his confidant, but created him baron, and viscount Villiers, earl, marquis, and duke of Buckingham. He was not only particularly distinguished in James's reign, but his son and successor Charles, placed an almost, uncontrouled confidence in him, so that his friends were raised to the highest elevation under him, and himself possessed of the most considerable offices of the crown; but alas! that envied greatness brought on a sad catastrophe. His extensive power, created him numerous enemies; a disappointed faction meditated revenge. In this desperate age, blood terminated almost every quarrel. A fleet was sent to relieve Rochelle in 1628, which was then besieged, but miscarrying in the attempt, the duke of Buckingham hastened to Portsmouth to take upon him the command of the fleet, which was about to make

a second attempt to relieve Rochelle. CHAP.
28
But on the 28th. of August 1628, while the duke was at Portsmouth, giving orders to Sir Thomas Fry and some other officers in his presence, he received a mortal wound from an unseen hand, which struck a pointed knife into his heart and left it there; the duke instantly withdrew the fatal instrument, crying, *the villain has killed me*, dropped down, and immediately expired.

THE assassin proved to be John Felton, a melancholy and revengeful enthusiastic, who had been a lieutenant in the service and thought himself slighted: he also thought he should be applauded by all mankind for destroying a man, that popular prejudice prevailed much against. The murderer shewed great signs of contrition before he suffered death: he particularly desired, that, that hand

CHA P. might be struck off, before he suffered
28. ed death, which committed the horrid deed; but it was not complied with.

THE murderers knife is now in the possession of the earl of Denbigh. Buckingham was an ostentatious minister, it is believed that he left behind him, jewels to the amount of three hundred thousand pounds. No wonder, that the splendor with which he was surrounded, should create him enemies here. But in France, that court, when sent on an embassy to conduct Henrietta, consort to Charles, into England, received him with the most flattering terms. His fine person, accomplishments, and splendid appearance, captivated a people fond of ostentation in a superlative degree.

ANNE of Austria the young queen of France, 'tis said, could scarcely resist

list the charms of the English minister, whose magnificent appearance and familiar manners, had attracted the attention of every one at that time. CHAP. 28.

WILLIAM PESTEL,

RECTOR of Coalorton in this county, absconded when the troubles in this reign began to spread universal terror, but returning soon after, he was shamefully abused, beaten, and his living taken from him, for his adherence to the royal cause.—His wife and family were supported by charity.

The SIEGE of LEICESTER.

BETWEEN Harborough and Leicester a skirmish happened in 1644, betwixt a party of the king's forces, commanded by Sir Marmaduke Langdale

CH A P^ddale, and a party of the parliament's
28 forces. The latter lost about 100
men killed, and 250 taken prisoners ;
besides a considerable number of hor-
ses. The victors lay in Leicester that
night, and there received orders to
collect a sufficient force, and proceed
to the relieve of Newark, then be-
sieged by the parliament's forces, but
in their passage thither, they were at-
tacked by a party of the enemy, com-
manded by colonel Roseter, near
Melton Mowbray, in this county.
The royalists sustained the sudden and
desperate attack of the enemy with
great bravery, altho' inferior in num-
bers, and at last obliged them to re-
tire, leaving 170 dead in the field,
and some horses ; which helped to re-
mount some of the king's men who
had lost theirs in this conflict. The
wounded men of the king's forces
were left at Belvoir-Castle.

DURING

DURING the above transactions the fortifications in Leicester were in the hands of the king's forces, who soon after abandoned them to the enemy ; who kept them 'till the spring of the year 1645.

CHAP.
28

ON the 7th. of May the king took the field and marched towards Chester to relieve it, being then besieged by the enemy ; but hearing on his way thither that the siege was raised, he changed his rout and marched towards Leicester, thinking that place an object of consequence to his affairs ; the county being unfavourable to his cause the soldiers were suffered to commit some unwarrantable outrages upon the inhabitants, and their property, upon their march towards that place.

WHEN the king approached the garrison, having no time to lose, he sent

C. H. A. P. 28. sent a peremptory summons to surrender it up immediately, which not being complied with, he began to battering it with his great guns. A breach was soon made in the works which left the besieged little hopes of defending the place untill succours might arrive to their relief: however the soldiers and townspeople continued a vigorous resistance, till the royalists entered the breach sword in hand, headed by colonel Sir Thomas Appleyard. † Although the besieged fled at the appearance of the king's forces, they were still determined not to be made prisoners, and in consequence of this resolution formed themselves in the market-place, after keeping up an irregular

† Colonel Sir George, who seconded, was slain on his entering the breach.—Colonel Grey, the governor, and Captain Hacker, who were both wounded, were taken prisoners.

lar fire in the streets and avenues lead-
ing thereto.

CHAP.
28

THE horse, that lay at some little distance from the garrison, in case of a sally from the besieged, were sent for to put a stop to the random fight in the streets; but before the appearance of the cavalry many lives had been lost on both sides, in the market-place, and in St. Martin's church-yard, where part of the garrison had been driven by the royalists. *u* But on the appearance of the horse, they desired

u Some of the garrison gaining admittance into the church, with some town's people, annoyed the king's forces from the church leads; but the royalists broke open the doors of the church and beat them thence, and put some to death for their rashness.—The following article stands in the parish accounts for that time: "Paid Francis Motley for mending the locks of the church doores broke by the king's army"—3s.

CHAP^d desired quarter, which the foot refused
28. them at first, being heated by the
obstinacy of the vanquished: however the discretion and humanity of the
officers soon prevailed over their rage,
and then fair quarter was given them.

THE king was strangely abused in
the public prints of those times, as a
barbarian and a murderer, for having
put numbers to death in cool blood,
after the garrison had surrendered;
and for hanging the parliament's com-
mittee, and some Scots found in that
town. But this relation was proved
to be a notorious falshood; however
it served the end purposed by the ad-
vocates of faction, as it heated the
passions of some to enmity, who were
before but indifferent about the issue
of this violent contest.

AN officer that was present at the
siege of Leicester, and who has writ-
ten

ten with a spirit of impartiality, ob-CH A P
serves, "That it was owing to a per-28
verse obstinacy in the town's-people
that irritated the garrison to resist af-
ter the works were taken, and was
the principal occasion of the slaughter
that happened in the streets." "The
inhabitants, (says the same author)
both men and women, fought in the
breach, to shew their over zeal to de-
fend the town." *v* It appears that the
females after this, seized what arms
they could find, and, mounting the
tops of houses, and at the windows,
discharged their contents at the royal-
ists as they patroled the streets, and
killed many. Others threw tiles,
stones, or whatever offensive materi-
als they could find, upon the heads of
them, which exasperated the soldiers
in the highest degree. One house in
VOL. IV. S particular

v The inhabitants of Leicester were then
chiefly antiroyalists, as were also the mem-
bers of the Corporation.

CHAP. particular suffered in the extreme, by
 28. an enraged soldiery. It seems to have
 been one of the principal houses in the
 place, and full of people, who were
 the most vigilant in the dastardly bu-
 siness of firing from the windows of the
 houses, &c. The king's dragoons
 passing by that house, were fired upon
 from almost every part of it, and see-
 ing six or seven of their comrades
 drop, they immediately secured every
 avenue leading therefrom, broke op-
 en the doors, and destroyed every
 person found there, without distincti-
 on. If the parliament's committee,
 and the Scots deputies, fell in that
 house, they should have dissuaded the
 people there, from such rash measures,
 or left them, and resigned themselves
 up to the victors.

COLONEL Grey, with some infe-
 rior officers and about 300 men, were
 taken prisoners, and about as many
 were

were killed. This happened the last CHAP.
day of May, 1645. w 28.

THE king remained at Leicester several days viewing the town, and giving orders to augment and repair the fortifications; intending to make it his grand rendezvous for his army. But the parliament, thinking it of too much consequence to remain in the king's hand, ordered their general to raise the siege of Oxford, and march towards Leicester.

MEAN while the king was exceedingly uneasy for the fate of Oxford, which he had been informed was besieged, but did not as yet know it was raised

w There were several officers who were killed at this siege buried in St. Martin's church, and an officer who died of his wounds, some time after at the *Red Lyon Inn*, in Leicester. See pages 15, 16, vol. III.—The town was stormed in the morning, and skirmishing did not cease till towards the evening of that day.

CHAP. raised, and being therefore ignorant
28. of the enemy's march directly towards him, he moved his army with an intention to succour that place. He encamped his army at Market-Harborough, on his way thither, from whence he sent an order to general Goring to come and join him, considering his army too weak for the purpose he intended. While he remained at Harborough, he received intelligence that Fairfax had raised the siege of Oxford, and was repulsed with great loss, in an assault upon Borstal-house, in Buckinghamshire. Elated with this intelligence, he advanced without the expected succours to Daventry, in Northamptonshire. Instead of which, if he had returned to Leicester, and waited until he had been succoured, while there was no danger in retreating, it might eventually saved his kingdom and his life.

An

An artful scheme, however, contrived by general Fairfax, which intercepted a letter to the king, hastened the destruction of his army. The enemy found by this letter, that the king would be joined, in a short time, by a considerable reinforcement, they therefore thought it prudent to bring the king to action before the arrival of those troops. For this purpose the enemy advanced towards him; but the king being just informed of their strength judged it adviseable to retreat to Leicester till his army might be strengthened, which he was sensible would be the case in about fourteen days time.

For this purpose the king's army began their march towards Harborough, where the van arrived whilst the rest of his army were about two miles off, followed by the enemy. By this time general Ireton, Cromwell's son-in-law had

CHAP.
28. had fallen upon some stragglers of the king's army and made them prisoners. It was therefore resolved that night in a council of war at Market-Harborough, where the king lay, to hazard a battle, considering the impossibility of reaching Leicester without being exposed to the most imminent danger, on their march thither. The king's army therefore in the morning began their march to meet the enemy, who, hearing of the resolve, had drawn up their army at Nasby, in Northamptonshire, whither the king's army approached. Here the armies contended with equal success for some time, until the rashness of prince Rupert, who precipitately followed a retreating wing of the enemy, with his horse, suffered the king's foot to be broken and cut to pieces. And altho' no man ever shewed more courage than the king on this occasion, in endeavouring

vouring to form his broken ranks, yet all was ineffectual. In this exigence, the king was prevailed upon to retreat, in the best manner he was able, with the remains of his army, towards Leicester, which he did in tolerable order; but was followed thither by Cromwell, and the enemy's horse, who killed all the stragglers, but durst not attempt to charge the main body. On their arrival at Leicester, the king and his friends thought it adviseable to remove to Ashby-de-la-Zouch, where this unfortunate king, saw himself a sad picture of distress, at the head of a small body of troops, almost without the necessaries that constitute a soldier; 2000 of his best friends slain at Naseby, almost 5000 more prisoners; besides 2000 horses, 12 pieces of cannon, 40 barrels of gunpowder, all his baggage, his secretary, and his cabinet of letters;

CHAPTER

28

ters; among which were the private ones that passed between the king and queen, which were basely published by the insulting foe. His army in the west was exposed to certain danger and almost inevitable ruin: and the Scots had over run the north countries; in short, the distress that seemed to surround him here, was hardly to be borne. He had once formed the desperate resolve of bidding his friends about him shift for themselves, and leave him in the most complicated wretchedness. He wished them comfort and safety but could discover no gleam of happiness for himself.—He now began to despair of ever returning to his lawful government. He now felt little hopes of rejoining his consort and little pledges of their union, whom he loved with the utmost parental tenderness. But alas! If Afhby bore a king of sorrows, she bare not

not the last sad stage of them ; hereC H A P
 majesty knew not an end to misery ; 28
 that end was reserved to elevate him to
 endless blessings, in those regions,
 where faction never enters ;——but
 where she will tremble at the comple-
 tion of Heaven's laws !

THE king stayed at Ashby-de-la-
 zouch about eight or ten hours, and
 then marched for Hereford distressed,
 and in disorder.

MEAN while the enemy's army,
 under the command of Fairfax, ad-
 vanced towards Leicester, which was
 delivered up by the governour, lord
 Loughborough, by capitulation, four
 days after Nasby fight, in which was
 a large quantity of ammunition and
 the king's best artillery. Lord Lough-
 borough the governour, was much cen-
 sured for his conduct by the king's

VOL. IV. T friends,

CHAP. friends, for not making the necessary
28. resistance at this place, which might
 for a time have impeded the rapid suc-
 cess of a victorious army.

LORD Loughborough, was a young-
 er son of the earl of Huntingdon.
 He was a warm advocate for the royal
 cause, and garrisoned Ashby-de-la-
 zouch for the king the beginning of
 these troubles. This garrison was
 called a maiden garrison, it being ne-
 ver attacked by the parliament's for-
 ces; but the same year in which the
 king was murdered there came an or-
 der to render it defenceless.

JOHN BAINBRIGE.

IN 1643. died Mr. John Bainbrige.
 He was a native of Ashby-de-la-
 zouch, and studied physic at Emanuel
 college, Cambridge. He then retired
 into

into his native county, there to practice in his profession; he meeting with but indifferent success, set up a grammar school, practising physic occasionally. In this retirement he published an astronomical description of the comet which appeared in 1618. He was soon after promoted to an astronomical lecture, founded by Sir Henry Savile, which caused him to remove to Oxford, where he was incorporated doctor of physic, as well as at Cambridge. He was appointed superior reader of Lynacre's lecture in 1635. Among his works were published *Procul's Sphere*, *Ptolemy's canon of kingdom's*, *Canicularia*; or a *Treatise of the dog's star*, *Periodus*, *Sothica*, &c.

MR. EDWARD LEIGH.

WAS born at Shathwell, in this county. After being educated in grammar,

CH A P. 28. P.grammer, he was moved to Oxford, where he made great progress in classical learning. He then studied law at the middle Temple, till the plague in 1625, forced him thence. He afterwards studied in France, and on his return, spent some years more at the Temple, studying Law, Divinity, and History. In 1639 he was chosen burges for the town of Stafford. In those turbulent times he bore an active part against the king. He, like others of this violent faction, was appointed to serve the cause they were embarked in, in various capacities. He was not only a member of the lower house, and a colonel of a regiment, but appointed also one of the assembly of divines, to settle some religious matters. But he, in turn, had his quietus from the arbitrary will of Cromwell. He, with several other members of the house of com-

MONT

mons voting his majesty's concessions ^{CHAP.}
satisfactory, were driven from that ²⁸
house by the governing army, Dec.
6th. 1648. Upon this, he retired
into the country, where he gave him-
self up to study till the restoration;
when he again became a member of
the house of commons. He wrote se-
veral books esteemed by the learned
world. When he died I have not
learned.

THE following are some of the
books written by Mr. Leigh :

Select and choice observations con-
cerning the 12 Cæsars.—A treatise of
the promises.—Critica sacra.—A trea-
tise upon divinity.—The saint's en-
couragement in evil times ; or, obser-
vations concerning martyrs in gene-
ral.—Annotations on the new testa-
ment.—A philological commentary.—

A

M E M O I R S, &c.

CHAP²⁸ A system of divinity.—A treatise of religion and learning.—Annotations on the five poetical books of the old testament.—Second considerations of high court of chancery.—Choice observations on the kings of England, from the Saxons, to the death of Charles Ist. &c. &c.

RICHARD VINES.

BLAZON, near Hinkley in this county, gave birth to another opposer of government of consequence in this reign. This gentleman was educated at Cambridge, where he took the degree of master of arts. Few of the follies incident to youth accompanied his early years. He resided at Hinkley some time in the capacity of a school-master; but taking holy orders, and removing to London he was soon considered as a first rate preacher there. He was well versed in the scriptures.

Scriptures, and was chosen one of the CHAP.
assembly of divines, with Mr. Leigh, 28
and others, A. D. 1644, to establish
the presbyterian government. He
proved so able a disputant that he was
called their Luther. He was also em-
ployed in the treaties of Uxbridge, and
the isle of Wight, where he behaved
with that due reverence to his majesty
Charles I, that, that prince often con-
descended to move his hat when he
spoke to him. This remarkable com-
placency of the unfortunate king is no
ways to be wondered at, when we are
told how singularly haughty the other
deputies carried themselves to their
truly pitiable king. King Charles al-
ways spoke of him, altho' an opposer
of his government, as a friend and
gentleman. Doctor Fuller informs
us that he was a most amiable charac-
ter as a man, and a painful and labori-
ous minister. He died A. D. 1655.

Mr.

CHAP. Mr. ROBERT WELDON.

28

WAS rector of Stony-Stanton, when the flames of discontent were every where kindled. He for a while endeavoured, like a good pastor, to dissuade all within the circle of his instruction, to allay their discordant sentiments. He, grieved at the rebellious disposition of parliament and people to their king, at last endeavoured by his pen to point out the folly and wickedness of the opposition in a book, entitled, *The doctrine of the scriptures concerning the original of dominion*. But upon the downfall of monarchy, he was most cruelly treated, and at last driven from his country by their intemperance.

ANTHONY GREY,

WAS the son of George Grey, son of George, earl of Kent, the said Anthony

Anthony not being likely to succeed CHAP
28.
to the earldom, was educated for the church, and became rector of the village of Burbach, in this county; but the intermediate heirs of the family all dying before him, he was called to the house of lords, in 1639, as earl of Kent. But he being of a peaceable turn, the jarring of the different interests at that time ill suited his disposition; he was, therefore, rather disturbed than pleased with his elevation; and finding the parliament take such liberties, he excused his attendance there, and returned to his rectory, and there cultivated the social virtues, becoming his holy function. Nor did he escape the slander of the evil minded in those turbulent times: for every one that was a friend to peace and order, was a reputed friend to the king's cause, and was sure to suffer one way or other, on that account.

VOL. IV. U WILLIAM

CHAP. WILLIAM BURTON, Esq;

28.

AUTHOR of a description of Leicestershire, published in 1612, was born at Lindley in this county. He studied at Brazen-Nose college, Oxford, and afterwards at the Temple. But the law not suiting his genius, he became excellent in the study of heraldry, genealogy, and antiquity. He was very conversant in Roman and Saxon antiquities, of whose coins he had made a considerable collection, which he gave at his decease to William Chetwynd Esq; He had an almost general acquaintance with the antiquarians of the age in which he lived, whose assistance in writing his Leicestershire he acknowledges in his preface. This volume was ushered into the world under the patronage of the duke of Buckingham, who was stabbed at Portsmouth. It is a work of

of much labour, and to those who are fond of unravelling the knotty branches of genealogy, it cannot fail to please, as in that and heraldry its excellency consists. Notwithstanding that these cold and lifeless relations suit not the generality of readers, yet some are to be found who spend years, nay, their lives in these pursuits.

CHAP.
28

ROBERT BURTON,

BROTHER to the above, was born at Lindley also. He was surnamed Democritus junior, and studied at the same college with his brother; and when he had taken his degrees, he was made rector of Segrave in this county. He had the reputation of a good scholar, but his manner was rather disgustful, being of a melancholy turn. In the midst of his gloomy and sequestered living, he found means to display

CH A P. display an eminent degree of the social
 28. duties. By his industry he became an excellent mathematician, and philologist. He wrote a book called the Anatomy of Melancholy, which passed through several editions. He died in 1639.

Mr. JOHN BUTLER,

OF the village of Bilston in this county, was sequestered for his adherence to the royal cause; and obliged to pay the parliament's commissioners 128*l.* which they called composition money; as were also several more gentlemen in this county, at the same time; and on the same pretence; and this by specious contenders for liberty.

AUGUST 12th. 1636, Ludovicus, prince of Palsgrave of the Rhyne, being on his way to Tutbury, where the

the king of England, his uncle, then CHAP.
28.
was, dined at the Angel inn in Leicester, at the expence of the corporation. On this occasion there were allowed three gallons of canary, three gallons of claret, and three gallons of white-wine.

Dr. MARSHALL,

WAS born at Barkby, in this county, and educated at Lincoln college; Oxford. In his early life, he had the reputation of a discreet youth, and particularly distinguished by his attachment to the preaching of archbishop Usher, whom he took pains to imitate, both in a moral and religious light.

HE was admitted batchelor of arts without fees, in 1645, he having entered into the regiment of the earl of Dover, bearing his own expences,
when

CHAP. When Oxford was garrisoned for the
28 king.

WHEN the parliament's visitors came to Oxford, he thought it more prudent to leave his native country, than to become an easy prey to those oppressors. He passed over into Holland, where he became preacher to the English Merchants at Rotterdam and Dort.

AFTER the restoration he returned and published his famous observations on the two ancient versions of the Evangelists : (viz) the Gothick and Saxon, whereupon he was chosen fellow and rector of Lincoln college, chaplain to his majesty, rector of Bladon, and dean of Gloucester. His reading was extensive ; his criticisms just, a preacher of the first eminence, and an acknowledged good man. At his death, which happened in the first year

year of James II, he left 600l. to his own college, for three scholarships, besides a part of his books ; the rest he left to the university library.

C H A P
28

J A C O M B.

AT Burton Lazars was born Mr. Thomas Jacomb. He was first of Magdalene-Hall, Oxford, but upon the breaking out of the civil wars, when every one distinguished himself to be of one party or the other, he removed to Cambridge, where several royalists had been ejected, took the covenant, and became fellow of Trinity college in the room of one of them. He had the reputation of a man of learning, and valued as a steady, useful, adherent to the parliament. He took orders in the presbyterian church, and succeeded to the living of St. Martin's near Ludgate, London, in the room of one ejected for adhering

CHAP. 28. adhering to the royal cause. He was then appointed a commissioner for ejecting ministers and schoolmaster of the established church; and for approving presbyterian ministers, who were to be settled in livings in the room of those ejected; in which employment his zeal and judgment procured him the approbation of his party, in the highest latitude; but such was the fluctuation of those times, that in about three years after, he was himself ejected from St. Martin's for non-conformity. He then held a private meeting for some time, and soon after became chaplain to the countess of Exeter, in whose service he died, A. D. 1687.

BESIDES some sermons that were published by him, he was one of those eight non-conformists who finished the English annotations upon the scriptures, began by Mathew Pool.

COUNTESS.

SPITTLE-HOUSE.

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COUNTESS'S HOSPITAL, CHAP.

28.

NEAR the Abby, Leicester, was founded by the countess of Devonshire in this reign, who lived at the abby when it was burnt. * It originally maintained six poor women, maidens, or widows. Their allowance being 30 pounds per annum. The house was much decayed, and I believe some time without the number of poor originally intended to occupy it; but the late lord William Manners's son, who now enjoys the Abby estates, has lately rebuilt it.

SPITTLE-HOUSE,

NEAR the end of Belgrave-gate, Leicester. In this house are generally maintained about six poor women also, placed in it by the justices of the

VOL. IV

X

peace

* See page 165 vol. III.

CHAP²⁸ peace for the county, excepting, I believe, one place, which is given away by the officers of St. Margaret's parish, Leicester. Their pay is but about one shilling and two-pence per week, and some little bounty they receive at some certain times of the year. Besides the above, there is also another hospital in Leicester, for a certain number of women. This house is situate in Blue-boar lane. y

AN EXEMPTION

FROM paying toll. The freemen of Leicester have long been exempt from paying toll at fairs, &c. throughout

The Rev. Mr. Ludlam, Confrator of Wigston's hospital, has requested me to inform my readers, that, that part of the assertion, which I quoted from a tour in some of the midland counties (see page 21) respecting the *income* of the master of Wigston's hospital, is a mistake, the whole being a sum much less than that assertion.

out England. And that the reader CHAP. 28
 may be informed of the origin, and
 the particulars of this privilege, I
 have caused to be printed, a copy of
 a certificate granted by the corporati-
 on of Leiceſter, to a burgeſſ, in the
 mayoralty of Edmund Cradock,
 A. D. 1657.

C O P Y.

“ To all chriſtian people to whom
 “ this preſent writinge ſhall come.
 “ The Maior, Bailiffs, and Burgeſ-
 “ ſes of the burrough of Leiceſter, in
 “ the county of Leiceſter, ſend gree-
 “ tinge, in our Lord God everlaſtinge.
 “ KNOW YEE, that whereas as
 “ well by letters pattents of kinge
 “ John, ſometimes kinge of England,
 “ &c. bearinge date the fixe and
 “ twentyeth day of December, in the
 “ firſt yeare of his raigne; as alſo by
 “ divers

CHAP²⁸ "divers other graunts, statutes, and
 "acts of parliament, of Edward the
 "third, Henry the fourth, Henry
 "the fifth, Henry the sixth,
 "Edward the fourth, Henry the
 "seaventh, sometymes also kings of
 "England; and also by divers other
 "graunts, confirmations, statutes,
 "and confessions of Henry the eight,
 "Edward the sixth, also sometymes
 "late kings of England, and of the
 "lady Elizabeth, sometymes queene
 "of England, and of the late kinge
 "James. IT IS graunted, enacted,
 "appoynted, established, and con-
 "firmed, hat all and singuler tenants
 "of the honour of Leicester, holden
 "of the dutchy of Lancaster: and
 "more especially the Maior and Bur-
 "gesies of the burrough of Leicester,
 "shall have, enjoy, and use (amongst
 "other things) their liberties, privi-
 "ledges, and immunities following,
 " (that

“ (that is to say) that they shal bee C H A P.
28.
“ quitt of all and all manner of toles,
“ pannages, passages, lastages, stal-
“ lages, peggages, pitchages, terra-
“ ges, murages, carriages, and stan-
“ nages whatsoever, in and thorough
“ the Realme of England, as well by
“ sea as by land, for all their goods
“ and merchandizes whatsoever, with-
“ out any molestation, as by the said
“ letters, pattents, graunts, statutes,
“ and confirmations remayninge upon
“ record, more at large it doth ap-
“ appeare. And because many from
“ tyme to tyme (as it is said) doe
“ clayme the said liberties, privi-
“ ledges, and immunities aforesaid,
“ which are not of the company of
“ burgeses of the borough of Leices-
“ ter aforesaid, nor ought to be quitt
“ from such toles and payments:
“ KNOW yee therefore now moreo-
“ ver, That wee the said Maior,
“ Bailiffes,

CHAP²⁸ Bayliffes, and Burgefles, to you,
“ and every of you, by tenor of theis
“ presents doe certifie that William
“ Newton, vintner, is one of the
“ Burgefles of the burrough of Lei-
“ ceſter aforeſaid, and that the ſaid
“ priviledges and immunities by force
“ of the ſaid graunts and confirmati-
“ ons, freely and quietly hee ought
“ to haue and enioy : WEE there-
“ fore againe inſtantly by theis pre-
“ ſents doe deſire and require that the
“ ſaid William Newton and eyery o-
“ ther Burgeſſe of the ſaid burrough
“ of Leiceſter, freely and quietly you
“ will ſuffer to goe and returne with
“ their goods and merchandizes what-
“ ſoever, without any of your letts
“ or moleſtations, or without takinge
“ or clayminge of them, or any of
“ them any tole, pannage, paſſage,
“ laſtage, ſtallage, peſſage, pitchage,
“ terrage, murage, carriage, and
“ ſtanage,

“ ftanage, contrary to the liberties C H A P. 28.
 “ and immunities aforefaid, and for
 “ you and every of your morefull fa-
 “ tisfaction herein that the faid Wil-
 “ liam Newton is one of the Burgefles
 “ of the faid burrough of Leicefter as
 “ aforefaid, Wee make you theis and
 “ our letters testimoniall, and for the
 “ better ftrengtheninge and confirm-
 “ inge thereof, Wee have hereunto
 “ putt our common feale of the bur-
 “ rough of Leicefter aforefaid, dated
 “ at the Guildhall of the faid burrough
 “ of Leicefter the tenth day of March,
 “ in the year of our Lord, one thou-
 “ fand fixe hundred fifty and feaven.

COLES, cōmon clerk here.

EDM. CRADOCK, Maior.

It feems a pity, that a privilege of
 fo extenfive a nature, intended, doubt-
 lefs, to benefit them only who by
 birth or fervitude become freemen,
 should

- CHAP should be prostituted to serve the purpose of an election. Are we to wonder, if, by it being claimed by honorary freemen, it becomes injurious, and an object of complaint; and in consequence of such complaint, it be removed from succeeding generations? —I flatter myself, that the custom of making honorary freemen is too general, in opposite parties, to subject this remark to locality.

END OF THE FOURTH VOLUME.



E R R A T A.

line 5, page 6, read, earl of Doncaster ambassador.

—19—84—Arthur.

—4—87—Anthony.

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